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THE TIMES

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45p

Summit talks for Major and Bush over Bosnia

The United Nations Security Council is expected to debate powers similar to those invoked against Iraq in an attempt to enforce the air exclusion zone over Bosnia and protect refugees

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND MICHAEL BINYON

JOHN Major is to fly to America this weekend for a special summit with President Bush on what the West can do to halt the bloodshed in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The private talks at Camp David will come at the end of a week of intense international diplomatic activity as pressure mounts for a tougher Western stance against the Serbs.

Mr Major, who is taking a stronger hand in British policy towards the conflict, yesterday reviewed the options with his cabinet defence and overseas policy committee, and Douglas Hurd will this week attend a series of conferences across Europe devoted to the fighting.

The flurry of talks comes against a background of continued violence — which yesterday saw the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, come under mortar fire — and new ceasefire pledges: the leader of Bosnia's Serbs announced that his side would declare a unilateral end to the war by the new year. But at the same time, the Yugoslavia prime minister, Milan Panic, warned the world to stop intimidating Serbia, saying that UN military intervention would only spread the war.

This weekend's Camp David summit is expected to pave the way for a battery of new measures under the UN umbrella to pressure Serbia and its Bosnian surrogates into halting attacks on the remaining Muslim-held areas of the republic. The French ambassador to the UN said yesterday that a draft resolution providing for enforcement of the no-fly zone over Bosnia was being prepared and it was expected to involve similar provisions to those used against Iraq.

If such a resolution were adopted, it would probably mean American F14 jets flying from the US carrier *Ranger* in the Adriatic or from US bases in Italy to enforce the exclusion zone. Other key elements are likely to include a "safe havens" scheme to protect refugees, along the lines of those used for the Kurds in Iraq, and the full diplomatic and physical isolation of Serbia.

Whitehall officials emphasised last night, however, that a security council resolution was not imminent. They suggested that it made no sense to threaten to shoot down aircraft unless Western forces were in a position to do so, and it was important that action quickly followed any resolution or the Serbs would think the West was simply crying wolf.

Britain is widely perceived as the coolest of the Western allies to any action against the Serbs, both because it has the most troops on the ground and because it is fearful of jeopardising the humanitarian aid programme. But Mr Major will not stand in the way of the use of force to police the no-fly zone. Foreign Office sources also said yesterday that the Edinburgh summit declaration on Bosnia could be interpreted as backing for a safe havens plan, an idea strongly favoured by The Netherlands, which yesterday offered to send its air force to impose the exclusion zone.

Both Mr Ashdown, who escaped unscathed from a mortar attack while visiting a British army patrol on the front line near the Muslim town of Travnik, and Baroness Thatcher want

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Travnik yearns for British defenders

FROM PADDY ASHDOWN IN SARAJEVO

WELCOME to Travnik — Have a Nice Stay, read the sign as our Warrior sped into the town. We travelled along the main street, past broken windows, buildings riddled with bullet-holes, destroyed by shells.

People waved their appreciation. Many just looked on in expressionless resignation: part grateful for the sense of

security the mere presence of British troops has brought to the town in recent weeks, part grudging that these well-armed troops on their doorstep do not have the mandate to help defend them against the constant shelling and the imminent threat of being overrun by the Serbs a mile away.

We pass the most shelled building in the town — the hospital — and on to the frontline village of Turbe — most of whose inhabitants have left to join the ever-swelling flood of refugees the war has created.

I am with the Colonel Bob Stewart, commanding officer of the 1st Cheshires, Britain's frontline troops in this conflict, based in Vitez.

They are at the end of an impressive, efficiently organised logistics operation that stretches 155 miles up-country on some impossible roads from Split. It is one of the best organised, most professional British operations I have ever seen — and one we can be proud of.

My journey from Split on Sunday to Sarajevo brought home to me the sheer scale of the operation British troops are involved in, in very difficult conditions, to make sure the humanitarian aid gets through.

In Turbe we spend some time with the commander of the Muslim troops, resolutely



A Somali woman tries to defend herself with a knife picked up from a watermelon stall as she is attacked by a mob in Mogadishu yesterday. The woman was stripped naked and beaten by an angry crowd after she was accused of consorting with French soldiers taking part in the United Nations armed relief operation. The incident was the first real sign of anti-foreigner sentiment

since the start of the American-led Operation Restore Hope. Chanting "prostitute" and "sacred", youths set upon the terrified woman outside a hotel housing scores of journalists, ripped off her clothes, kicked her and beat her with sticks as she lay screaming in the road. She was dragged off by plainclothes members of Somalia's ad-hoc police force to a

former police station near by where she was said to have been detained for prostitution. Unconfirmed reports earlier said she had been shot dead. Colonel Michel Tournon, the senior officer among French troops in Mogadishu, denied that the woman had consorted with his men.

Silencing the guns, page 9

IRA may have tapped calls between Major and Hume

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA may have eavesdropped on private conversations between John Major and a leading political figure in Northern Ireland, it emerged yesterday.

The RUC confirmed that officers in Londonderry are investigating a telephone tapping operation involving John Hume, leader of the moderate nationalist Social Democratic and Labour party, Mr Hume, who was in Strasbourg yesterday, would not comment, but informed sources have told *The Times* that voices on tapes now in possession of the police include that of Mr Major.

A source familiar with the police investigation said officers were astonished when they discovered the contents of the tapes, which showed that the IRA "had been keeping themselves entirely up-to-date" with the recent inter-party talks process.

Police would not confirm that Mr Major is on the recordings, and a Northern Ireland Office spokesman was unable to comment.

The existence of the tapes, which have worrying security

implications for Mr Hume and his correspondents, came to light during a search by the RUC of a house at West End Park in the Bogside area of Londonderry last Wednesday. The house is only a few doors away from Mr Hume's home.

During the operation, a search for weapons, officers found a number of tapes and recording equipment. Seven people including a woman

were arrested. All have been released without charge.

A review of the tapes made clear that Mr Hume's telephone had been tapped. Police are not saying how many tapes are involved or over what period the tapping took place, but officers are believed to be working on the theory that it could have been part of an attempt to monitor inter-party talks on a new government for Northern Ireland. The latest phase began in May and ended inconclusively last month.

Mr Hume, who also keeps in touch with the Irish government, was told of the discovery on Saturday.

The IRA in Londonderry contacted a local newspaper to deny it had anything to do with the tapping. It is known, however, that the provisionals have used sympathisers working for British Telecom.

The tapes may indicate that republicans have been more concerned about a successful outcome to the talks than willing to admit in public.

Daily meeting, page 2

Lamplugh sister flees abduction

By A STAFF REPORTER

A FRENCH holidaymaker was yesterday charged with the attempted abduction of the younger sister of Suzy Lamplugh, the London estate agent who vanished without trace six years ago after keeping an appointment with a client.

The tourist, aged 20, who has not been named, is due to appear before Oxford Magistrates' Court this morning. He has been charged with attempted kidnapping, threats to kill, robbery and possession of an offensive weapon. A Thames Valley police spokeswoman said the man would not be named until his court appearance.

Elizabeth Lamplugh, 22, a publishing assistant, managed to escape and raise the alarm after the alleged abduction attempt in Oxford late on Sunday afternoon, police said. Speaking at a press conference yesterday afternoon, accompanied by her mother, Diana, Miss Lamplugh said: "How unlucky can one family be?"

Continued on page 2,

Defeat for Yeltsin as Gaidar is cast aside

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin was last night fighting for his political survival and the future of Russia's reforms after the appointment of a conservative prime minister heralded the most serious threat yet to the country's transition to a market economy.

The development is a personal blow to Mr Yeltsin, who was forced by the overwhelming opposition of the country's highest legislature to abandon his support for the candidature as prime minister of Yegor Gaidar, the architect of Russia's radical reforms, despite substantial concessions to hardliners.

The Congress of People's Deputies chose Viktor Chernomyrdin to head the government by an overwhelming majority. A former Communist party functionary and representative of the military-industrial complex, he has been in charge of the energy sector since then and is considered to belong to the pragmatic wing of the conservative opposition.

Radical deputies last night accused Mr Yeltsin of a betrayal of principle, with one prominent supporter, Father Gleb Yakunin, saying that the decision to sacrifice Mr Gaidar was a catastrophe and that the president could no longer be trusted. Russian Khasbulatov, the Congress chairman and arch-rival of Mr Yeltsin, claimed the result of the vote as a victory for predominance in the battle between legislature and executive.

Mr Chernomyrdin comes from the ranks of Civic Union, the powerful umbrella group of technocrats which is demanding a slowdown in the pace of reform and a return to greater state influence over the economy. In an acceptance speech delivered against the

background of enthusiastic applause, he pledged to continue reform but with "a slightly different tone". He added that he would support policies to rejuvenate the Russian economy "but not at the expense of impoverishing the people". His accession robs Mr Yeltsin of prime ministerial support when the country is in economic trouble.

The battle for the future of reform in Moscow was echoed in Stockholm yesterday at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, where Andrei Kozyrev, Russia's liberal foreign minister, shocked the gathering with a mock headline speech saying that Moscow would be prepared to use military force and economic pressure against former Soviet republics to reassert Russian domination. He then retracted his remarks, explaining that they were a scare tactic to jolt the West into an appreciation of what could happen if President Yeltsin lost power and conservatives took over in Moscow.

Mr Gaidar said last night that he would not serve under Mr Chernomyrdin, but he called on other members of the radical reform team to stay on and fight for the continuation of reforms. Mr Gaidar came only third in a ballot of several candidates for the post, behind Mr Chernomyrdin and Yuri Skokov, the headline chairman of the security council. Mr Yeltsin is now struggling to rescue his personal authority, undermined by his mishandling of Congress.

□ Suspects freed: Four men suspected of involvement in the coup in August last year, including the former Speaker of the Soviet parliament, have been released, pending trial.

Yeltsin defeat, page 8

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Mr Bates co-founded South East Computers, a computer dealership in Hastings, East Sussex, 12 years ago and often travelled to America on busi-

The football club's acting chairman, Phil Jones, 46, said: "Howard and Matthew both played a really good game of soccer, and often played together. Howard's business brain was brilliant for the club and he soon became our chairman. As I understand it, he wanted to set up a factory in Miami to manufacture surgical equipment to be used in operating theatres, but the factory never existed. He was shown a unit when he went on visits to the site, but it was never really available."

How viewers in America saw the royal family on Sunday night in the television film *Charles and Diana: Unhappily Ever After*



THE timing of *Charles and Diana: Unhappily Ever After*, a television film depicting the marriage breakup of the Prince and Princess of Wales and broadcast to millions of Americans on Sunday night, could hardly have been better. The film itself could scarcely have been worse. Superficial, stilted, miscast and mind-numbingly boring, the ABC

production co-starring Catherine O'Connell (formerly of *Dynasty*) and Roger Rees (formerly with the Royal Shakespeare Company) will doubtless prove one of the most successful TV films of the year. The relationship between the Prince and Princess forms the main drama, with the Duke and Duchess of York's separation a subplot in a film of relentless emotional crises, faux-pageantry and hats — hundreds of them, worn by everybody all the time, even

indoors. *Unhappily Ever After* takes us from the early days "when love still bloomed" to the "end of the fairy tale" — well, not quite, but the end is clearly in sight.

The film is unique in one sense. The American media have traditionally sided firmly with the Princess of Wales, who is usually portrayed as an innocent commoner brought low by the rigid regulations of royal life. This film, however, does not take sides since all the characters (with

the possible exception of the Queen) are almost equally ghastly. The Prince of Wales is aloof, pompous and obsessed with gardening; his wife is addicted to pop music and would rather be "teaching kindergarten"; the Duke of Edinburgh is despotic and old-fashioned. The Duchess of York is made to sound, and even dress, like Mrs Slocombe from *Are You Being Served?*

Diary, page 14

By ROBIN YOUNG

Mr Hewitt told the court: "The association was absolutely important to me. My wife and I used the club regularly every Friday night."

BY RAY CLANCY

In Somerset, a debt collector for a catalogue firm offered to

Often it is hidden penalties in loan deals that catch people out. In Tyne and Wear a man signed a secured loan for £6,000 in 1987 at an APR of 39.9 per cent repayable over 10 years. He fell into arrears and incurred penalties which increased the APR to 190 per cent. He has cleared the arrears and paid out £9,000 to date. When he asked "if he could settle the loan early he was quoted a figure of £18,000 less £4,000 rebate. The original loan could end up costing him £39,000."

Ann Abraham, the association's chief executive, said: "An increasing number of our clients are finding they simply cannot make ends meet and have no choice but to resort to credit. We are asking the government to ensure that levels of benefit are adequate, that safety nets such as the social fund work for the people who really need them and credit industry practices are closely controlled."

Dickensian view, page 6

By JEREMY LAURANCE

Nicholas Penny, a Renaissance specialist at the National Gallery, said: "Speculation that there might be an autobiographical element in the Mona Lisa is not surprising, especially since it is an unusual type of portrait and more idealised than others by Leonardo."

By NICHOLAS WATT

The first customers yesterday were impressed. Lynette Ely, who was visiting

Even before the new McDonald's opened, medical students at the hospital had requisitioned the brightly coloured restaurant. Imrana Qureshi, one of the students, said: "This will become a major hang-out and I'm sure they'll end up having to kick us out. We're going to come here for breakfast, lunch and dinner." Imran Rao, another student, said that although he thought the food at McDonald's was junk, the college dining hall was just "a mess".

Lee Soden, the hospital's director of commercial services, said: "We wanted to offer more choice to our customers and obviously we saw a chance to make money. We have a Good Food at Guy's Campaign that offers a range of nutritional food to our customers. McDonald's will be an important part of this. But of course, nobody eats a Big Mac three times a day."

GLENMORANGIE

GEORGE MACKENZIE. *Mashman.*

IT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE, and the annual Glenmorangie party was in full swing. Somewhere a door opened. A sudden waft of icy Firthside air provoked a flurry of goosepimples. And a briskly pedalling figure disappeared into the mist outside. 'Who was that?' asked a visitor. 'Oh, only George Mackenzie. He's away up to the mash-house to tend the mash.'

Even those who do not work at the distillery know of George's dedication to the mash. Ask him why on Christmas Eve, Burns' Night, even Hogmanay he will give up all to be with his charge, and he will reply: 'Time and the mash wait for no man.'



HANDCRAFTED by the SIXTEEN MEN of TAIN.

Animal liberationists suspected of firebombing Forestry Commission station

Arson ruins 30 years of conservation research

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THIRTY years of research by one of Britain's leading experts on tree diseases was destroyed in a firebomb attack on a Forestry Commission station yesterday. The attack could be the work of animal liberation activists.

The attack was at the commission's research headquarters at Alice Holt Forest near Bordon, Hampshire, and destroyed the office of Brian Greig, the longest serving research officer at the station. If staff living near by had not been alerted, the blaze could have brought down the entire building.

Yesterday Hampshire police were unsure of the motive. One suggestion is that the station was attacked because of the commission's links with hunting.

Last month a demonstration was held at another commission site over the use of commission land for hunting. There could also have been objections to the station's work with red squirrels.

Mr Greig, 57, joined the station in 1959 after training at a forestry college and specialising in tree diseases. He was called from his home in a nearby village by a colleague after the fire began.

The station's caretaker and other staff worked to halt the fire but his office was wrecked costing him 20 to 30 box files of material. They covered his research on Dutch Elm disease and new work on a disease attacking oaks called oak tree dieback.

Yesterday, as firemen cleared up, Mr Greig was left to gather what he could from the debris.

He said: "I'm absolutely shattered. Thirty years of work has gone up in smoke and it is irreplaceable: accumulated information and historical records." He said important research results had been published but this was only the bare bones of work which

would have been invaluable to others.

"I have got about a dozen plastic bags filled with bits of paper but there is likely to be very little to retrieve. I have lost an almost unique collection of colour slides as well as notebooks. I am not sure how I am going to tackle this problem. Some work might be reconstructed."

"I cannot believe that animal liberation extremists are responsible because all we do is study the behaviour of a handful of squirrels. I wouldn't dream of harming animals because my life's work is purely about conserving wildlife and forests."

Peter Rose, a scientist at the station, said: "I find it hard to believe this could be the work of animal extremists. I was woken up this morning when the firebomb blew out all the windows. If all of the devices had gone off the station would be in ruins."

Inspector Brian Beckingham of Hampshire police said the arsonists had deliberately scattered papers throughout the wood and concrete building and soaked them in petrol. They had then set up incendiary devices with timers round the building but only one erupted.

The inspector said: "If the rest had exploded the whole centre would have been destroyed. The roof would have been taken off."

He said animal liberation activists could have been the culprits but the work of the station was "ultra-environmentally friendly". The station's work was solely to protect and conserve Britain's forests.

Animal liberation groups have been active in recent weeks with fires at a Midlands agricultural college and attacks on factory farming companies. The station is one of two run by the Forestry Commission and has never had any problems before.



Counting the cost: Brian Greig, whose life's work was about conservation, in his ruined office in the Alice Holt Forest research station

Extremists are stepping up their campaign of violence

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

ANIMAL rights extremists have been active recently in their own version of a Christmas terrorist campaign with a series of attacks against the meat and dairy producing industries. Arson attacks on refrigerated lorries, a poultry processing plant and a farm shop are likely to be followed by fresh assaults.

The activists have struck in support of a clutch of campaigns linked to preventing the continued exploitation of animals by man whether by hunting, for food, for science or for clothing. In the space of a decade, the activists have become adept at guerrilla raids, arson attacks and bombing attempts on opponents.

Robin Webb, a spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front, said recently that while people considered Christmas a time for making merry at the expense of other species, animal rights activists thought it time to step up their work. The



Webb gave a warning of Christmas campaign

battle has brought controversy to the RSPCA and arguments within the activist ranks over whether their violent tactics are justified.

Last month Ronnie Lee, co-founder of the Animal Liberation Front, was released from prison after serving seven years of a ten-year sentence for attacks on stores. He said he intended to campaign now using legal methods.

One prong of the activist philosophy has centred on

banning the use of animals for fur clothing, and a long-running campaign over the past decade has done much to reduce the fur trade. Department stores, fur shops and the fur trade have been firebombed in recent years and one attack several years ago in the Home Counties caused £10 million damage.

Activists have also begun to wage war on butchers, meat dealers and factory farmers in support of a vegetarian or vegan, section of the campaign. Vehicles have been attacked, farms raided and shops set alight.

The battle against scientific research has led to bombs placed under the vehicles of researchers, including one in Bristol two years ago which injured a baby near by. The homes of scientists have been raided and laboratories attacked to release animals in raids sometimes carefully filmed for their propaganda value.

The police response has been a series of successful operations and convictions.

Howard puts price on emission cuts

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY

FUEL prices will have to rise regardless of the option chosen by the government to cut Britain's carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2000, a consultation document published by Michael Howard, the environment secretary, revealed yesterday.

Britain must reduce its annual carbon dioxide emissions by 10 million tonnes before 2000 to comply with agreements made at the Rio summit in June.

The document says that a tax on fossil fuels, set at \$10 for a barrel of oil, could achieve the entire saving.

Doubling petrol prices could have the same effect, as every 10 per cent increase would save a million tonnes of the gas. An extended programme of energy efficiency might save up to 3.5 million tonnes a year, while setting energy standards for domestic electrical appliances could save 2 million tonnes.

Linking fuel efficiency to the

price of vehicles might save 1 or 2 million tonnes, and speed governors on all new cars could save up to a million tonnes. A further million tonnes could be saved by support for renewable energy such as wind power.

Asked about his own energy saving commitments, Mr Howard said that he had some energy-saving light bulbs in his Chelsea home and lagging in the roof. The house would shortly be given an energy survey.

Air pollution is a potentially serious health risk to one in five of the population, Friends of the Earth said yesterday (Michael Hornsby writes).

Three out of four sites in London monitored over an 11-month period showed average nitrogen dioxide levels above EC recommended limits. The group said that the very young, the elderly and people suffering from asthma and other respiratory diseases were at risk.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three die in house blaze

A woman died yesterday in a vain attempt to save the lives of her brother and mother when flames engulfed their home. Firemen wearing breathing equipment recovered the bodies of Robert Hughes, 26, and Kathleen, 60, from the gutted house in Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan.

Claire Hughes, 25, was taken to Prince Charles hospital but was dead on arrival. Kenneth Duke, 66, a neighbour, said: "I could hear Claire shouting for help, calling her brother's name as if she was trying to wake him up. No one had a chance to get into the house. The smoke and flames were so fierce."

Lucky find

Nick King, who found £3,000 cash in a plastic bag while walking his dog in Caversham, Berkshire, immediately gave the money to police. It was returned to its owner, an unemployed man who had dropped the bag after setting off on his bike to buy a car.

RAF rescue

A woman aged 78 was rescued after a three-car collision by the crew of a passing RAF Sea King helicopter. They helped paramedics and flew her to Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne.

12-hour ordeal

A Brighton woman aged 90 was impaled on a metal hearth for more than 12 hours before being rescued by firemen and taken to hospital with a piece of metal embedded in her leg. Her condition was satisfactory.

£7,000 mix-up

Gedling Borough Council, Nottinghamshire, has been ordered by the ombudsman to pay a small farmer compensation after a mix-up over planning permission that cost him more than £7,000.

Doctor loses

Dr Thomas Anderson McAllister of Scotland lost his fight to have his name restored to the medical register after a judgment of the Privy Council's judicial committee.



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Safer laser surgery operation can correct severe short sightedness

By NIGEL HAWKES

LASER treatment for correcting severe short sight has been launched by a London clinic. The operation, performed under general anaesthetic, involves removing a thin disc of material from the cornea, reshaping it with a laser and then replacing it in the patient's eye.

The result is to alter the shape of the cornea so that it is able to focus light more accurately.

Existing laser operations, which involve removing material from the front of the cornea, are suitable for the mild-to-moderately short-sighted.

The new operation, however, is designed for the small number of people who are so short-sighted that it amounts to a disability.

There are believed to be some 200,000 people in Britain who are this seriously short sighted.

The technique, known as intrastromal keratomileusis, was developed in Italy by Dr Lucio Buratto, an ophthalmic surgeon.

Under general anaesthetic, a suction ring is placed on the eye and a thin disc of cornea about 8mm in diameter and just under 1mm thick is cut from the cornea using a rotating blade.

The disc is placed face down on a rubber support and a precise amount of material, calculated from the degree of myopia, is removed from the back using a laser. This produces a beam of ultraviolet light that vaporises tissue, molecules at a time, without damaging the surrounding tissue. The disc is then replaced in the patient's eye and sewn into place.

Recovery is rapid, with no tendency to form scar tissue. Dr Buratto has performed 200 such operations in Italy, and 85 per cent of his patients achieved sight very close to normal.

The treatment has been launched in Britain by the Amott Ophthalmic Clinic at the Crownell Hospital, Kensington, west London, which carries it out as day surgery. Stephen Amott, the clinic's business manager, says the

■ The 200,000 people in Britain who are so short-sighted that it is a disability may be helped by a new laser surgery technique that has produced good results in Italy

procedure is similar to that of corneal grafting. It replaces an older procedure, not much used in Britain, in which the disc removed from the cornea was reshaped by freezing and then cutting it with a diamond-edge knife.

"The laser offers much greater precision," Mr Amott says.

The new technique is not intended for the treatment of mild-to-moderate short sight, for which laser sculpting of the

front of the cornea is more suitable. The need for anaesthetic and theatre time makes the new operation more expensive, at £2,500 per eye, roughly double the basic laser treatment.

Normally the clinic would wait three months or so to check that the short sightedness of the first eye has been successfully corrected before tackling the second.

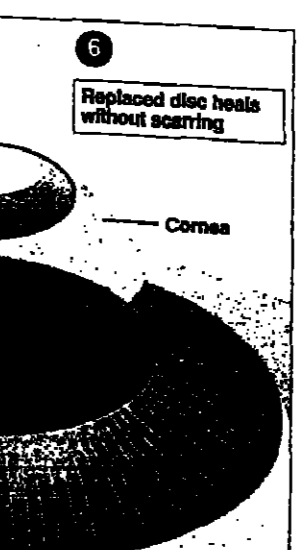
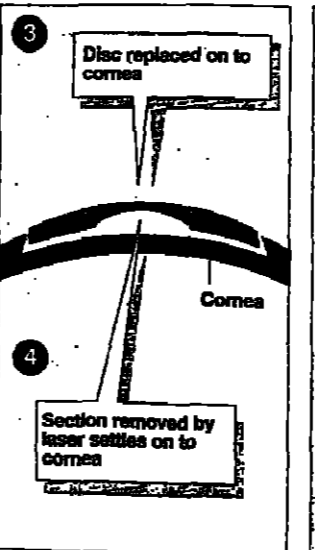
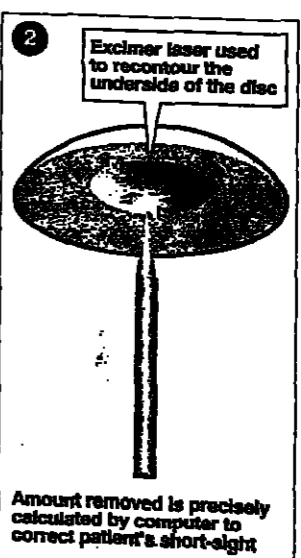
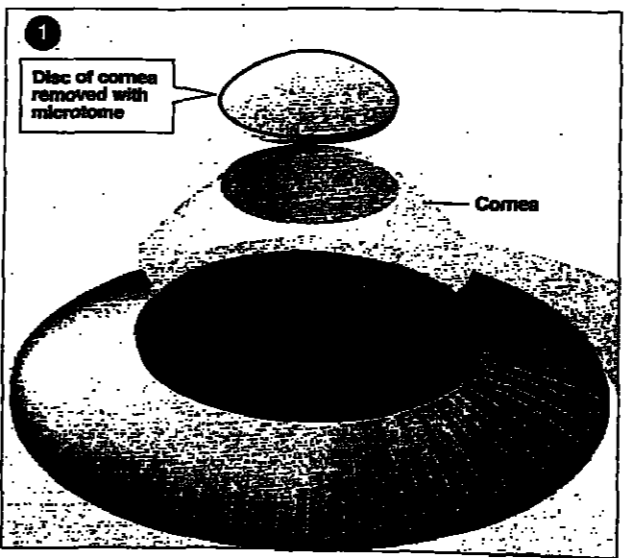
Operations for short sight have been available for some

years. The commonest is radical keratotomy, pioneered in Russia, in which a series of tiny cuts in the cornea is made to alter its shape.

Many thousands of such operations have taken place, but most British eye surgeons have preferred to wait for the new laser, which is seen as a safer and more predictable tool.

The new technique does not guarantee to liberate the extremely short-sighted from glasses.

"For these patients, it's not just a question of wearing glasses," Mr Amott says. "For some of them it's like looking through the bottom of a fish-bowl."



THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 15 1992

HOME NEWS 5

Top charity bosses are paid more than £60,000

By IAN MURRAY

EXECUTIVES who run Britain's main charities are paid more than £60,000 a year and are provided with a car, according to a survey of 69 voluntary organisations by Reward, a pay review organisation.

Such high salaries are an exception, however, and involve only the largest charities with the biggest staffs and budgets. The recession is forcing most charities to tighten their belts and shed staff.

London pay of the highest grades is still almost 10 per cent below levels of executives with comparable responsibility in the private sector and all the signs are that the gap will widen.

Charity workers' pay rose by an average 6 per cent last year, but this was possible only by cutting the number of workers and services.

"The Queen is not alone in feeling that to date 1992 has been an annus horribilis," said Peter Brown, chairman of Charity Appointments recruitment agency. "Many voluntary organisations have found the increasing demand for their services matched by a fall in central and local government grants, and their appeals income has forced them to curtail essential services."

According to Mr Brown, salaries for top charity managers have to be high to recruit executives capable of running organisations with more than 1,000 staff and an annual turnover of more than £50 million. People who can mastermind fund raising and know how to use limited

resources efficiently do not come cheaply. Mr Brown insists that the recruitment of skilled outsiders has been justified by the way most charities have been able to manage in difficult circumstances.

"Big corporate donors insist on minutely investigating the efficiency of charities they support," Mr Brown said. "If they applied the same kind of standards to their own businesses they would save millions."

The recession is proving to be a bonus for recruitment. Redundant managers are looking to them for work and Mr Brown receives 200 letters a week from executives ready to take pay cuts rather than wait indefinitely for promotion. "They are prepared to be less well paid to feel that they are doing something worthwhile. That would never have happened in the mid-1980s."

Charity pay levels traditionally follow those in local government, so next year's pay rises are unlikely to be much above the public sector 1.5 per cent review figure announced in the Autumn Statement.

In consequence, there is every chance that the gap between charity wages and those in other sectors will widen over the next year.

The Reward survey shows that apart from the largest charities, the average pay for a London-based chief executive is £42,000 a year, compared with £50,000 in the private sector.

The gap at middle management rank is, at 30 per cent, far wider, although the need for publicity means that a charity advertisement or public relations manager can expect to earn up to 17 per cent more than his or her counterpart in other sectors.

At the lower secretarial grades, too, the charity worker outside London is over 11 per cent better paid than those doing similar jobs in other sectors.

Charities' 1992/93 Salary Survey (Reward; £150)

Annual pay as percentage of national average	£	%
Chief executive	42,000	53.3
Chief accountant	27,500	34.4
PR manager	36,637	45.8
Admin manager	20,000	25.0
Senior scientist	18,132	22.7
Administrator	15,500	19.4
Programmer	15,500	19.4
Mgr's secretary	11,750	14.7
Clerk	10,840	13.6

Source: Reward Group



Shipshape: HMS Plymouth, which survived four bombs during the conflict with Argentina in 1982, is in good shape and will return to her public viewing duties in Birkenhead today after spending time in dry dock for

inspection (Michael Evans writes). The frigate, which was bought by the Warship Preservation Trust in April 1990, is regarded as a floating memorial to the sailors who lost their lives in the South Atlantic.

Tusa warns of threat to World Service

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Tusa, who retires at Christmas as managing director of the BBC World Service, yesterday called on his successor to fight a proposed £5 million cut in the Foreign Office's contribution to the service.

He said the budget cut, recommended by the Treasury in advance of negotiations next April, would "gravely damage" the World Service by "cutting straight into programmes" and could reduce the range of its language output in 1994. "It is equivalent to cutting our newsgathering budget in half either that or we would be looking at losing seven hours a week of language output."

The total operational budget of the World Service, which celebrates its diamond jubilee this weekend, is £133 million.

Although he refused to speculate about his successor, who is not due to be named until next month, Mr Tusa said: "The first job of the next incumbent is to get the £5 million rolled back."

Some of the names mentioned as possible successors include Baroness Chalker, overseas development minister, Tony Hall, director of BBC news and current affairs, Peter Jay, BBC economics correspondent, and John Simpson, the BBC's foreign editor.

Mr Tusa, a fierce defender of the World Service's independence from government influence during his six-year term, said his other advice for the next managing director would be to defend the World Service's independence. "The game is up for us if there is a perceived or actual erosion of our independence," he said.

David Witherow, Mr Tusa's deputy, will be confirmed on Thursday as the interim managing director. The prime minister, John Major, will be David Frost's first guest on *Breakfast With Frost*, a new political interview programme for Sunday mornings starting on BBC1 on January 3.

Solicitors gather tragic cases for legal aid battle

■ The Law Society fears 10 million people will be barred from seeking help with court cases if government cost-cutting goes ahead

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE dossier of a young woman whose baby died after her uterus was ruptured in childbirth and whose reproductive organs had to be removed is among the tragic cases sent to the Law Society as it fights government plans to curb spending on legal aid.

The cases have come from firms throughout the country to illustrate the kind of people they believe will be excluded from pursuing legal actions under the proposals to be brought in next April.

The Law Society will put its case this week at a special "teach-in" at the Commons, expected to be attended by about 100 MPs. At the same time the society is thought to be drafting alternative proposals to put to Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor. These would meet his need to curb soaring costs without excluding possibly 10 million people from the legal aid scheme.

The woman bringing a negligence claim over alleged mismanagement in childbirth is one of many personal injury victims who solicitors say would not be able to proceed under the present proposals. Her solicitor, Richard Barcan of Barcan Woodward, said he had dealt with hundreds of people who had been granted legal aid for whom he had recovered substantial damages and costs in full. "Neither the client nor the public purse is any worse in respect of costs," he said.

"I am convinced that a very high proportion of those contributing clients would not have proceeded with their cases in the absence of the legal aid scheme and I am sure that considerable injustice will be the result of reducing legal aid eligibility to income support levels."

He said the woman was not wealthy and despite the clearest evidence of negligence, he doubted that she would have thought it worthwhile pursuing a claim without legal aid, bearing in mind

the potentially huge costs. In the context of personal injury claims, he said, the only winners would be the insurance industry.

In another case, which the solicitors Newsome Vaughan of Coventry say would also be put at risk by the proposals, a woman became infected with HIV from her husband as a result of negligent advice from a medical consultant. The claim was hotly contested and it was expected to run to a five-day trial. In the end it settled shortly before trial.

Peter Jones, her solicitor, said: "Had the client been liable to pay a contribution over a long period of time she may not have been able to do so. She is working, not on a particularly high income, and her husband is seriously ill with Aids."

Such professional negligence cases are often complex, involve substantial sums and run for several years.

Another case, sent in by Foster Wells, solicitors in Aldershot, highlights the concern that defendants are often charged "where there is not really sufficient evidence on the basis that the police feel that the court should decide".

James Corfield, 17, was charged with being in charge of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. He had been to a nightclub with friends and, knowing that he should not drive home, went to sleep in the car. He was woken by police banging on the window and taken for a breath test.

He obtained legal aid and two days before trial the case was discontinued. His solicitor, Roger Hayman-Start, said that under new guidance to magistrates' courts he would not have obtained legal aid.

"Without the benefit of legal advice, there is an overwhelming temptation to plead guilty simply to get the matter out of the way or simply because of ignorance of the law," Hayman-Start said.

Pollution-free zone scheme to protect underground water

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE underground water supplies of England and Wales are to be systematically protected from the increasing threats of pollution and over-abstraction, the National Rivers Authority announced yesterday.

Hundreds of protection zones are to be established around groundwater sources such as boreholes, springs and wells in which farmers, industrialists, waste disposal contractors, developers and planning authorities will be encouraged to restrict activities that could contaminate supplies.

If the voluntary approach proves insufficient, the authority may seek to make the zones, which could cover thousands of acres, statutory areas in which developments that pose a threat could be banned automatically.

Abstractions by water companies which cause rivers and

streams to dry up will be forbidden. Drawing of supplies will be permitted only as long as there is "no unacceptable detriment to any watercourse".

The authority said yesterday that groundwater, which provides 35 per cent of drinking water, is increasingly at risk of contamination both from the disposal of waste materials from the widespread use of potentially polluting chemicals in industry and agriculture.

The authority has mapped all English and Welsh underground reservoirs, or aquifers, according to their vulnerability to pollution, which is determined by the natural characteristics of the soil and the rocks underneath. There are estimated to be 2,000 major public supply sources, with many more private points.

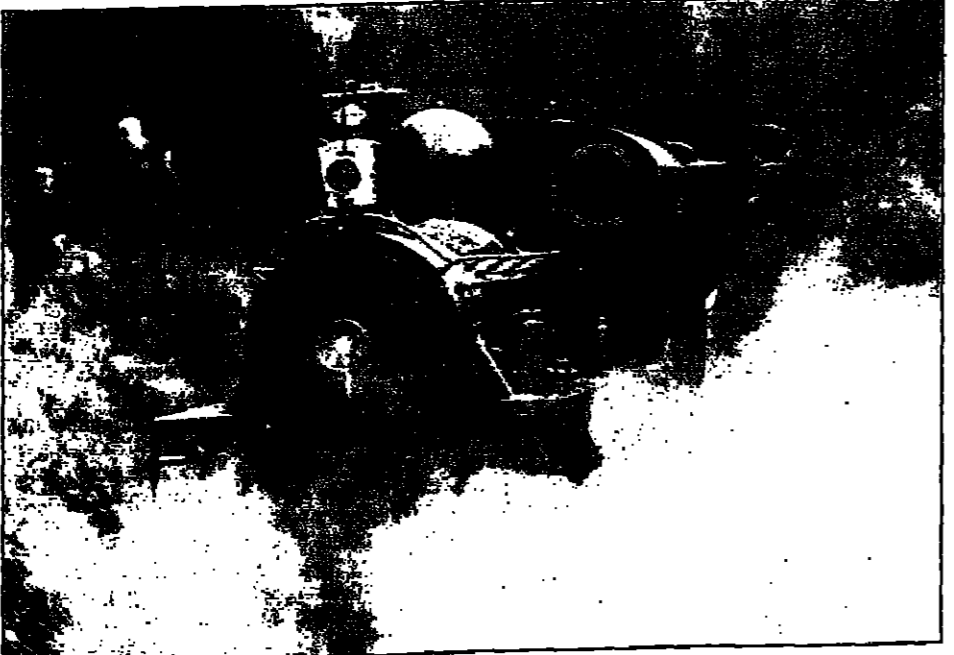
The first 750 source protec-

tion zones, covering about half the drinking water sources in England and Wales, are expected to be defined by August next year.

Jan Pentreath, the authority's chief scientist, said: "The quality and quantity of groundwater must be protected. It is a vital water resource which is extremely difficult and expensive to clean up once it becomes polluted, so the main message of the policy is that prevention is better than cure."

Polluted groundwater, the authority says, is difficult if not impossible to rehabilitate, with the process of self-purification, which takes days or weeks in rivers or lakes, likely to take decades underground.

Policy and practice for the protection of groundwater (National Rivers Authority, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE85 4ET; £15)



Epic journey: Japan may lead the world in new technology, but Britain can still show the Orient a thing or two about steam age engineering. Today a steam locomotive built by the Ravensglass & Eskdale Engineering Company will leave Cumbria bound for a railway line on the other side of the world outside Tokyo. The company was sought out by the creators of the Niji-No-Sato leisure park near the Japanese capital to build a narrow gauge engine as an attraction.

Yesterday, the eight-ton locomotive was named *Cumbria* by Viscount Whitelaw, and handed over to Masaru Nagae, one of the Japanese leisure centre officials. After the ceremony the engine pulled a train up the track, which runs from the Cumbrian seaport of Ravensglass deep into the Lake District hillsides along the valley of the River Esk. The railway opened in 1875 and was the first public narrow-gauge track in the country.

South Pole team cover 380 miles

By A STAFF REPORTER

SIR Raulph Fiennes is almost halfway to the South Pole and is making good progress in his attempt to make the first unaided crossing of Antarctica.

After 35 days of the expedition, Sir Raulph, 48, and his companion Dr Michael Stroud, 37, have completed almost 380 miles of their 2,200-mile trek.

David Harrison, the expedition spokesman, said that apart from the odd blister and occasional backache caused by pulling their sledges, which weigh 400lb, there had been no serious hitch so far.

The pair, who hope to raise £2 million for charity, are halfway up the Antarctic plateau, having climbed 5,000ft with the steepest part behind them. They are scheduled to reach the South Pole within 70 days and have allowed just over 100 days to complete the journey to Scott Base.

The men are trying to keep ahead of Ering Kagge, a lawyer from Norway who is attempting the same feat. He left late because of bad weather but hopes to make up lost time and overtake his rivals.

Mr Harrison said: "Raulph and Michael are absolutely fine. The messages that are coming back on a daily basis are positive. They say that they are really going for it. In a couple of days we expect them to be halfway to the Pole."

"They have had a lot of backache in the early stages. Michael Stroud had a bit of a problem with his heel and his Achilles tendon but he has treated that. Judging by the mileage they are making that is not causing any delay. They are still on schedule."

A big fund-raising campaign is under way, including television, press and poster advertisements. The organisers hope that the venture will raise about £2 million for the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain.

Mr Harrison said: "Raising money at the moment is hard work for everybody. One has to put an awful lot of work into it. It is going pretty well but it is difficult to put figures on it."

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Love letters to Elizabeth I fail to attract a buyer

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

LETTERS to Elizabeth I from the favourite that she later had executed failed to sell at an auction in London yesterday.

Sotheby's initially offered the 43 letters from the Earl of Essex to his "most fayr, most deere, and most excellent" Elizabeth I to the British Library, which had kept them on loan since 1945. But the library said yesterday that the price was too high. "We took commercial advice and that came in at a lot less," a spokesman said. "The fee was not negotiable."

Only two other lots at the ten-lot sale found buyers. The first, knocked down at £5,500, was a single letter from Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. He was the queen's favourite before Lord Essex, and in the letter he talks coyly of not hearing from her. The second lot, a letter from Sir Francis Bacon to Lord Essex, sold at £13,000.

The unsold letters refer to many of the Earl of Essex's exploits, such as his unsuccessful attempt to capture the Spanish treasure fleet. Written in what one contem-

porary called Essex's "ragged Roman hand" they also reflect the earl and queen's tempestuous relationship, switching in mood from the polite to the passionate; the reproachful to the defiant.

There is now speculation that the vendors, believed to be descendants of the family that founded the Hulton Picture Library, may go back to the British Library and lower their price or ask that the letters be loaned again.

Hinda Rose of Maggs Brothers, a leading London

manuscript dealer, suggested that the lack of interest was due to fears among potential overseas buyers about a government export ban. The £400,000 to £500,000 estimate for the letters from Lord Essex to his queen was "an awful lot of money in these times," she added. "There was not a single bid."

Roy Davids of Sotheby's said he did not believe the letters were overpriced because they were "one of the most important consignments" he had offered. The auction house had more success with letters from the literary collection of Jeffrey Young, a private London-based collector. Charlotte Brontë's letter to her publishers offering them what became her most famous book, *Jane Eyre*, sold for £66,000, double the estimate.

Lord Nelson's first letter to Lady Hamilton fetched £9,350. It includes the line: "As soon as I have fought the French fleet I shall do myself the honor of paying my respects to Your Ladyship."

Diary, page 14



Elizabeth I: described as most fayr and deere



Earl of Essex wrote in ragged Roman hand

Experts call for end to Dickensian view of bankruptcy

By TONY DAWES

People whose businesses face collapse deserve to be given professional help and guidance rather than be treated as crooks

CALLS for Britain to move away from the Little Dorrit view of bankruptcy and take a more helpful and less punitive approach to people in financial difficulties have been made by MPs and insolvency experts.

They believe that more businesses and jobs could be saved if anxious creditors and desperate company directors avoided the rush to bankruptcy that has engulfed a record number of people this year.

They are also demanding a review of the costs involved in bankruptcy, and the fees charged by insolvency practitioners, who have been accused, as *The Times* disclosed yesterday, of profiteering from others' misfortunes.

John McQueen, chief executive of the Bankruptcy Association, said: "A blanket law which treats everyone in financial trouble as a crook is totally inappropriate in the current economic climate. There are still people running around

ripping off creditors and they should feel the full force of the law. But there should be different provisions for ordinary hardworking entrepreneurs whose firms fail through no fault of their own."

Steve Hill, a senior partner in Cork Gully, Britain's biggest insolvency firm, said that although we were "limping decade by decade away from the Little Dorrit idea of insolvency," there was still the attitude that insolvency was the death of the business with the insolvency practitioner being seen as the undertaker.

He called on the government to introduce legislation similar to the Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection laws in the United States and to encourage lenders to specialise, as the Americans do, in helping bankrupt companies.

"Just because a businessman has made a mistake it does not mean that he has no future or that his business can only be successful under new management," Mr Hill said.

"Most directors and managers know what they have done wrong and a lot would not make the same mistake again."

Alan Simpson, the Labour MP for Nottingham South, who has taken up the case of a plumber bankrupted for a £2,000 VAT bill, urged the government to give regional bodies more powers to help small businesses in difficulty. Assistance should be available from county council economic development units and the trade department's regional offices, he said. "People who have a stake in the local economy make much better decisions than receivers or liquidators with no on-going link to it."

Ian Franks, head of an

insolvency firm in west London, demanded more support for individual voluntary arrangements that allow a person facing bankruptcy to continue in business and agree a timetable for debt repayment with his creditors.

"This is the best way to proceed if a businessman still has some funds and some future, because it guarantees the creditors some money," he said. "If he goes into bankruptcy, they may get nothing after statutory charges are imposed by the trade department and the insolvency practitioner's fees are paid."

Mr Franks joined MPs, including Frank Field, who has led the parliamentary investigation into the missing Maxwell pension funds, and Keith Vaz, who has campaigned for BCCI creditors, in calling for tighter controls on insolvency fees. The MPs want Parliament to have the power to examine fees charged by firms involved in sorting out major insolvencies.

Mr Franks also wants insolvency firms to be paid a percentage of the funds they obtain instead of for the time they take. "If you charge by the hour, your costs will always be open to question and creditors will never know what their dividend is likely to be," he said.

Mr McQueen would prefer to see a world without insolvency practitioners. He called instead for an extension of voluntary arrangements for those willing to try to discharge their debts.

He also believes that administration orders, which are imposed by courts to force people with debts of less than £5,000 to make regular payments to creditors, should be extended to cover far larger debts.

Fairy godmother who soothes away the pain

THE story of how Bjorn and Greta Luza staved off bankruptcy has been devised by insolvency experts to show that there is a less painful alternative for people who face business failure.

In a performance that includes a godfather and fairy godmother, the Luzas are portrayed as Italian restaurant owners who set up in London after being forced to leave Sicily.

The story was devised by Ian Franks, head of a west London insolvency firm. It tells how the Luzas enjoyed two successful years before the recession and an unwise investment in a protection racket left them with debts to suppliers and investors of £144,000.

A creditor petitions for bankruptcy when the drop in property values has left no equity in their home or restaurant and all they can raise by selling assets is £21,250.

By the time the trade department's statutory bankruptcy charges, the receiver's fees and the preferential creditors have been paid, just £1,995 is left to provide unsecured creditors with a dividend of 1.4p for every pound owed.

But in the performance,

acted out before informal gatherings of lawyers and accountants, Mr Franks appears in the guise of a fairy godmother.

"If Mr and Mrs Luza are made bankrupt, they will find it difficult to run their business as they will be unable to obtain credit from suppliers and there will be a minimal dividend for creditors," he declares.

But if they are allowed to stay in business and make an individual voluntary arrangement to pay off as much debt as possible over three years, the creditors will benefit. Relatives will forgo their claims to see the couple spared the stigma of bankruptcy and Mr Franks's 10 per cent of the funds raised will be less than half the charges involved in bankruptcy.

The creditors will end up with 25p for every £1 lost but three out of four must agree to the voluntary arrangement before it can be approved.

In a rousing climax to the play, Mr Franks wins the day. He said: "It is designed as a bit of fun, but like most plays it has a message: that it is more profitable for everyone to give businesses in trouble a chance to survive."

The way it isn't

CHARLES BROWN



YOU can learn a lot from museum curators. At the weekend, I enjoyed a stroll around the art collection of the Imperial War Museum, a visit greatly enhanced by my luck in chatting to a very enthusiastic attendant. He was happy to guide me round, filling me in on historical detail and drawing to my attention both the weak points of Nash and the strong points of Nevinson, of whom I had previously known nothing.

Before long we arrived in front of a small sculpture by Charles Sargeant Jagger. "I'll bet you didn't know this," he said, "but Charles Sargeant Jagger was the great uncle of Mick Jagger. Imagine it! The

greatest sculptor we've ever produced, and he's Mick Jagger's great uncle."

I looked at him with a semi-sceptical expression, but I could see from his face that he was telling the truth. I love these bizarre family connections, and this one seemed to be up there with the best of them, rivaling even Dame Margaret Rutherford being the great aunt of Tony Benn.

"That Mick Jagger came round here with a group of friends the other day," continued the curator, "and he was telling them the biggest load of rubbish about him, but there he was, spouting off. So in the end I saw red, and I said to him, 'You must be grateful that at least there's been one talented member of the Jagger family!'"

Jagger, it seems, was not best pleased by this remark, storming off in a tantrum. "Amazing," concluded the curator, "he must be worth millions, but with all that money he still can't get a decent crease in his trousers."

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Summit success gives the upper hand to pro-Europe Tories

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

TORY Euro-enthusiasts displayed new-found confidence in the wake of the Edinburgh summit yesterday as they called on John Major to push the Maastricht ratification bill through the Commons as quickly as possible.

The prime minister was given a warm reception from Tory MPs as he told them that the summit had brought the EC together again with a common purpose and reached decisions on issues considered by many as "insoluble".

After months in which the Tory Euro-sceptics have held sway in the internal party debate, the pro-European wing was firmly in the ascendant yesterday as Mr Major was given an easy ride by critics on both sides who found little ammunition in the Edinburgh agreement.

Although Mr Major was non-committal in response to pressure for an acceleration of the Maastricht process, senior ministers are growing more hopeful that if the Danish second referendum results in a "Yes" vote, Britain will be able to move towards ratification before the Commons rises for the summer recess in July. He was cheered as he said that making a success of EC membership was not a matter of idealism but of "hard-headed self interest". He told MPs that the growth initiative proposed by the summit could support up to £24 billion worth of projects.

Throughout hour-long Commons exchanges he

emphasised the importance of the imminent negotiations to enlarge the EC, a priority of the British presidency, and added: "What underpinned all our discussions at Edinburgh was the belief that the Community should continue to go ahead together as 12, not 11, not ten, not any other number, until such time as the Community is enlarged."

John Smith, the Labour leader, welcomed the agreements on enlargement and the Danish ratification of Maastricht. He insisted that action against unemployment was the most important test of the Community's relevance and said it remained a matter of "concern and regret" that this had been consistently downgraded during the British presidency. With unemployment in Britain "rising twice as fast as in any other EC country", and that across the EC expected to rise above 11 per cent, "should not the recovery of economic growth and the stimulation of employment have been a crucial objective of this summit?"

Mr Smith said: "Given the appalling prospect of sharply rising unemployment, why was there no proposal for an emergency employment programme right across the whole Community?" He accused the government of "deplorable neglect" of social issues during its presidency, but claimed the signs now were that "despite the foolish British opt-out, the social chapter appears to be alive

and well and fully supported by all other member states".

The prime minister's forecast of £24 billion new investment was "highly optimistic", contrasting with Commission forecasts that investment in the EC would be £32 billion below normal levels next year, Mr Smith said.

Mr Major accused Mr Smith of a "mealy-mouthed and nit-picking" response. He said the Opposition leader, and the shadow foreign secretary, Dr John Cunningham, had spent weeks "disparaging the British presidency". But "the heads of the governments that deal with us have praised the outcome of this summit". He told Mr Smith that "opposition for its own sake is not opposition of any value. You talk about Europe, but you vote against it, speak against it and act against it."

Danish relief, page 11
Woodrow Wyatt, page 14
Pound steady, page 21



Coal face: Neil Clarke, the British Coal chairman, giving evidence yesterday

Confusion over pit closures

By Arthur Leathley

A PICTURE of confusion and misunderstanding between the government and British Coal emerged yesterday as MPs pressed senior industry figures over proposed pit closures.

The Commons employment select committee, which is examining the employment consequences of the closures, repeatedly asked Neil Clarke, British Coal's chairman, and senior colleagues why Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, had not been involved in discussions over the planned loss of 30,000 mining jobs.

Michael Coffey, Mr Clarke's former adviser, said that meetings had not been arranged because Mrs Shephard's office had declared a previous meeting with Michael Howard, the former employment secretary, "a waste of time". The government reaction had caused "surprise and dismay" at British Coal, he said. Mrs Shephard told the committee last week that no such indication had been given by her department.

PowerGen deal, page 21

Recovery fails to take hold

By Sheila Gunn
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont admitted yesterday that, despite promising signs, economic recovery has failed to take hold. Although reluctant to make fresh predictions about an early end to the recession, the Chancellor insisted that the scene was now set for recovery and growth. Britain, he said, could look forward to 1993 as a "year of progress".

Writing in *The House* magazine, the parliamentary journal, Mr Lamont said that the magic ingredient needed to spark recovery was confidence. "Chancellors cannot create confidence. Animal spirits cannot be summoned up by government fiat," he added. "But I can create the right conditions for confidence to revive." Dropping his customary caution, he said that he believed the right economic environment was now in place to bring about an end to the recession.

"We have the lowest interest rates in the European Community, competitive tax rates and a flexible, reformed economy. The scene is set for recovery and growth."

Labour budget cuts threaten HQ staff

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

STAFF at Labour party headquarters will be reduced by 25 per cent under proposals for swingeing cuts in the party's budget which are to be put to the national executive committee tomorrow. The plans include closing three of the nine regional offices, with the loss of 10 to 12 jobs.

The final report from the finance working party, which has been asked to reduce the £6 million annual budget by a third, says that the headquarters staff for the years between elections should be cut from 120 to 90. Redundancies will be avoided in most cases because many posts have been frozen since the general election, although some people will be offered early retirement. The proposal to cut regional offices by a third is likely to be met by fierce opposition, however, as many MPs and party workers argue for more resources at the grassroots level.

Some members of the NEC are also expected to oppose a proposal to double MPs' contribution to the party to 2 per cent of their salary, arguing that this is particularly unfair when MPs' salaries are being frozen next year. This measure alone would raise £190,000 a year. The report also proposes cutting back its glossy documents and holding all conferences — except the annual party conference — every two years.

The 100-page finance report will also suggest that £10 million should be set aside for campaigning in the next general election. A new fund, the national organising fund, is to be set up with the aim of raising £1.6 million a year. It will open next year with an £800,000 contribution from party funds and will try to attract resources from local fundraising and donations. The party will also be more aggressive about fundraising from commercial sources.

The report will also recommend setting up pilot projects in 30 constituencies to look at ways of increasing party membership. Present trends indicate that individual membership will fall below 200,000 and union-affiliated membership by one million to 3.6 million within four years. The projects will look at the success of telephone canvassing, doorstep campaigning and reducing membership fees.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: education; prime minister. Timetable motion on the education bill. Civil service (management functions) bill, remaining stages.
Lords (2.30): British Coal and British Rail (transfer proposals) bill, report.

Benn takes on the House of Windsor

By Jonathan Prynn

The twin constitutional dilemmas posed by the Maastricht treaty and the royal family's problems has given a new lease of life to the republican instincts of Tony Benn.

The former Labour cabinet minister yesterday re-introduced a bill in the Commons that aims to abolish the constitutional "roadblock" of the crown and introduce sweeping reforms of Britain's constitutional architecture.

Mr Benn's measure, the Commonwealth of Britain bill, was originally presented to Parliament last year. Although the bill is due for its second reading on January 29, it has no chance of making further parliamentary progress. However it has been given new relevance by the debate over the future of the monarchy.

At a Westminster press conference yesterday, Mr Benn said that public servants' "feudal relationship with the sovereign" meant that the British system of government allowed "very

little rights for ordinary people". The Maastricht treaty gave the question of the monarchy's future a new twist, he said, because it would give the Queen a vote as a European citizen in European elections, opening the possibility of Buckingham Palace being canvassed during European election campaigns.

At his press conference, Mr Benn adopted a surprisingly genial stance towards the House of Windsor. His bill, while sweeping away the royal prerogative, would allow the royal family to live in comfort. Hereditary titles would also survive.

The bill would introduce an elected presidency, national parliaments for England, Scotland and Wales and a referendum on electoral reform. It would also reduce the voting age to 16, dis-establish the Church of England, end British jurisdiction in Northern Ireland and introduce a charter of rights.

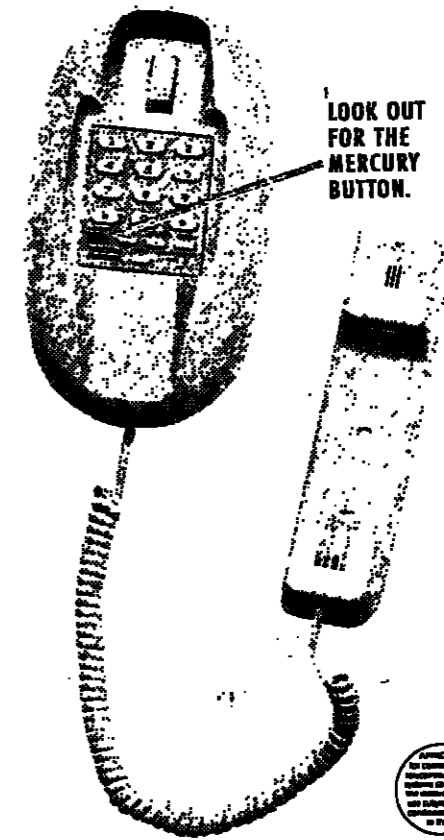
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Yeltsin forced to let ideological enemy control the government

FROM ANNE MCELVOY
IN MOSCOW

THE crack in Boris Yeltsin's usually booming voice when he announced that he was abandoning his campaign to keep Yegor Gaidar, the radical reform economist, at the head of his government was the most poignant indicator of the impact of yesterday's election of Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister.

The rise of Mr Chernomyrdin, former Soviet gas minister and a disciple of the main opposition Civic Union which aims to slow the reform process, is the Russian leader's nightmare come true. It leaves him with an ideological foe running the government and his strategy in tatters. Mr Yeltsin's survival, and the continuation of recognisable reform, are now in jeopardy.

Mr Yeltsin looked downcast and hesitant as he read out a barely coherent statement. "I remain committed to Yegor Timurovich [Gaidar]. He could be the best choice. After we spoke, he did not directly withdraw his candidature but with his consent I considered another candidate," he said.

President Yeltsin has had to give in to Congress time and again. The rejection of his protégé, Yegor Gaidar, is turning even his strongest supporters against him

Mr Gaidar promptly announced that he was leaving the government in a statement whose tone left no doubt about his fears for the future of reform. "I do not want to interfere with [Chernomyrdin's]... efforts to carry out the policies which he deems necessary," he said.

The new prime minister lost no time in making clear that he represents a substantial shift away from present policies. To loud applause he spoke of the need to "end the deadlock" between government and opposition and said that reform must not continue at the expense of impoverishment of the Russian people. As he left the Kremlin, a despondent Mr Gaidar commented that he saw "no way reforms could continue" under the new prime minister.

With over 400 votes against his candidature, Mr Yeltsin did not have the confidence to take

his planned "escape route" of leaving Mr Gaidar as acting head of government until April.

"I think that this is a catastrophe," said Gleb Yakunin, a prominent radical deputy. "Chernomyrdin is a symbol of slowing down, of applying a brake to the reforms."

Mr Chernomyrdin, 54, received over two thirds of Congress votes. Well over the number needed to ensure his appointment. Only 172 of the 1,064 deputies voted against the move. Earlier in the day the assembly had placed him second choice behind Yuri Skokov, the head of the security council and considered even more conservative than Mr Chernomyrdin.

Mr Yeltsin insisted on Mr Chernomyrdin's appointment as the lesser of two evils.

The new prime minister joined the government in May



Chernomyrdin: will slow down reforms

as one of a clutch of deputy prime ministers with responsibility for the energy sector, an appointment viewed at the time as a pre-emptive concession towards the industrial lobby which was pressing for greater state protection against the impact of market reforms.

His statement that he is pro-reform but against the impoverishment of the people is more significant than his superficial blandness suggests. The phrasing is shorthand for

an ideology in which the state is accorded a major role in the transition to the market, in effect inhibiting the process by keeping open unprofitable enterprises and staving off the mass-unemployment which would be an inevitable side-effect of radical changes in the economic structure.

His appointment will deeply concern the IMF and Western governments and investors, since the corollary to Civic Union's policies of loosening monetary controls and increasing state credits and investment is the risk of hyperinflation.

Arms sales: Igor Rogachev, the Russian ambassador to China, said in Peking yesterday that Russia will continue to sell arms to China to raise hard currency but it was aware of the need to keep balance in the Asia Pacific region. (Catherine Sampson writes)

Last year, China bought 24 SU27 fighter jets from the Soviet Union, and there is speculation that it is now hoping for a deal involving MiG aircraft.

Gaidar's fall, page 1



Talking it over: Russian deputies discussing who should become prime minister

MAN IN THE NEWS

An optimist felled by vested interests

BY ANNE MCELVOY

YEGOR Gaidar yesterday lost his battle to be confirmed as Russian prime minister and with it his fight to keep the country on the path of radical reform on which he embarked a year ago.

At 37 he was the youngest member of Boris Yeltsin's reform team and a symbol of the hopes that Russia could make a rapid leap from a command to a market economy. He was dogged throughout by a recalcitrant bureaucracy, an ideological backlash and his excessive optimism about how much his countrymen were prepared to suffer for reform.

Mr Gaidar's role as the architect of radical change catapulted him from obscurity to a celebrity second only to Mr Yeltsin. But it placed on him the burden of the reform programme's failures and made him the focus of the concentrated aggression of an opposition too scared to confront the president himself but baying with growing confidence for liberal blood.

Both his grandfathers were well-known writers active in the ideological debates that followed the 1917 revolution. His great-grandfather led a Bolshevik Cheka (secret service) unit and was later a rear-admiral.

A graduate of Moscow University's economics faculty, where he was considered an outstanding student, he became director of the Academy of Sciences' Institute of Economic Policy in 1991. He was treated as an economic enfant terrible by the establishment

after he responded to Mikhail Gorbachev's appeal for emergency economic programmes.

His radicalism paid off when President Yeltsin took power, intent on a more drastic start to the reforms that had failed under his predecessor. Mr Gaidar entered the government in November 1991, entrusted with sole responsibility for economic policy. Heavily influenced by Jeffrey Sachs, a Harvard economics professor, he won the International Monetary Fund's support with a reform strategy emphasising price stabilisation, a balanced budget and tight monetary policy.

He showed some naivety in trying to apply textbook economic models to a complex and chaotic situation. Mr Yeltsin fought long and hard to keep him, but his intemperate outburst against Congress last week backfired, and Mr Gaidar was the casualty.



Gaidar: became focus of opposition enmity

Cold war spoof tests Western resolve

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR
AND BRUCE CLARKE IN MOSCOW

IN A high-risk attempt to draw attention to the anti-Western nationalism of President Yeltsin's enemies, Andrei Kozirev, the Russian foreign minister, yesterday gave a 45-minute speech to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe that could have come straight from the Cold War era.

Expressing Slavic solidarity with Serbia and demanding an end to sanctions against the Serbs and threatening the independent republics of the former Soviet Union, he told the 52-nation gathering in Stockholm that Moscow might use military force and economic pressure to reassert its domination throughout the former Soviet Union. He said Russia had to defend its interests "by all available means".

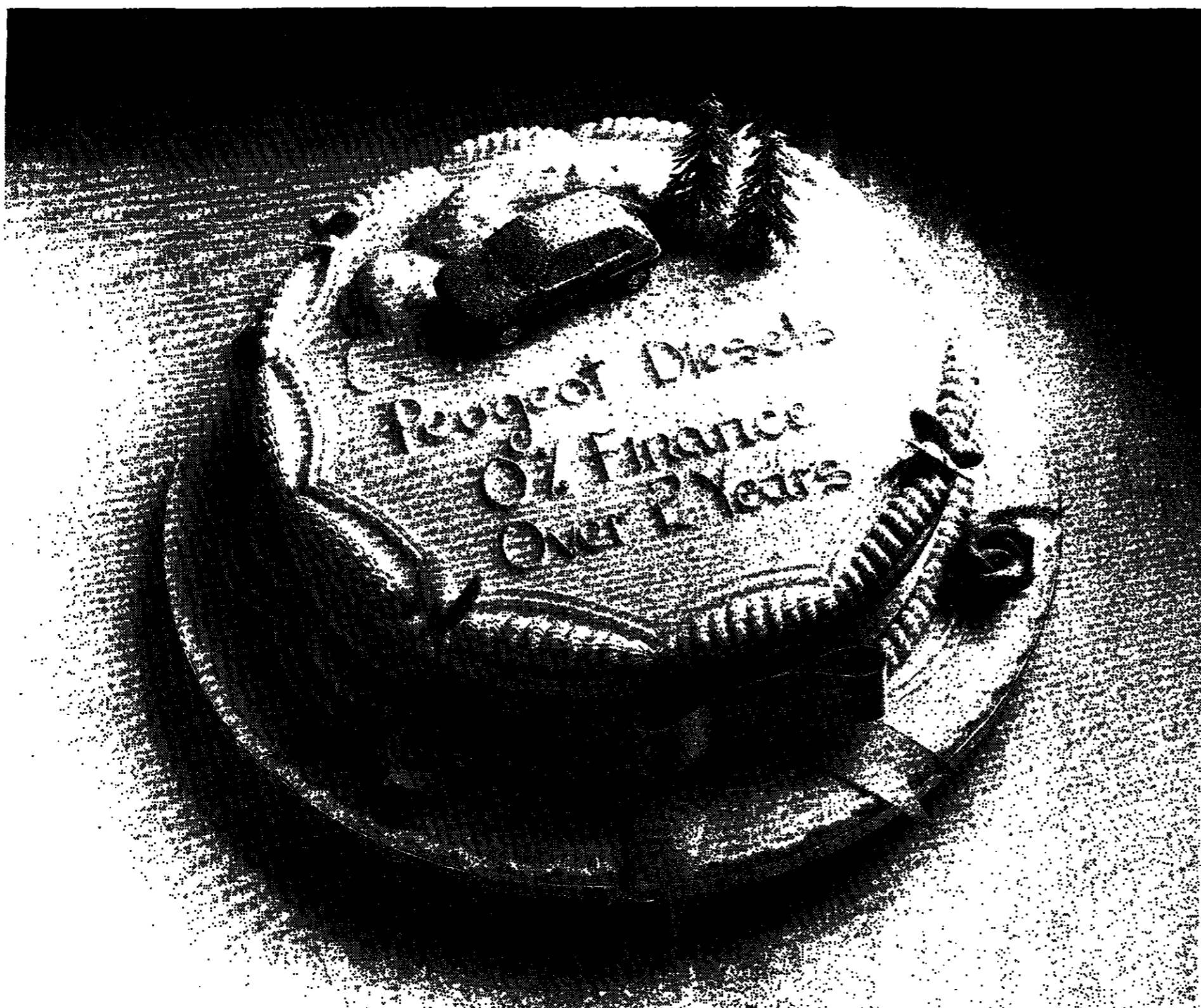
After a short pause, Mr Kozirev said that neither he nor Mr Yeltsin stood by a word of what he had said: it was a spoof of the kind of speech that would have been given had the extreme nationalists triumphed in Moscow, and represented the views they are trying to impose. "I did it for the most serious reasons so that you should all be

aware of the real threats on our road to a post-communist Europe," he said.

The point being made needed no explanation in Moscow. An influential and growing section of Russia's political class feels the country has become too complacent in its international behaviour. It favours a much harder line in dealings with the West and other former Soviet republics, as well as a revival of links with traditional friends, such as Serbia, India and possibly Iraq.

As the minister himself observed, the contents of his outburst could have been taken verbatim from the public comments of his political rivals. Indeed, they largely reflected what passes as "mainstream" thinking in the Congress of People's Deputies.

Ironically, even as Mr Kozirev was making his spoof call for "tough discussions" on a new grouping of former Soviet states, the Congress voted overwhelmingly to support the idea of a confederation of the old republics. The legislature also voted on Saturday to consider demands for an end to the UN imposed sanctions against Serbia.



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THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 15 1992

OVERSEAS NEWS 9

Americans at odds over disarmament in Somalia

■ Silencing the guns of Baidoa is not proving as simple as protecting food convoys. Washington politicians and troops on the front line are heading for a policy clash

FROM SAM KILEY IN BAIDOA

TENSION between Somalis and American troops grew yesterday after senior US officials issued conflicting statements about whether their troops would be used to disarm gunmen as well as to escort food convoys in the famine-stricken south of the country.

Lawrence Eagleburger, the Secretary of State, confirmed at the weekend that an agreement had been reached with the United Nations that the 28,000 American soldiers, as well as contingents from other countries, would be used to "pacify" Somalia while distributing food aid. Last night Lieutenant General Robert Johnston, the marine commander of Operation Restore Hope, insisted that disarmament of the thousands of gunmen and their heavily armed Jeeps, known as "technical", was not part of his mission. "The notion that you can disarm Somalia is an enormous challenge," he said.

In Baidoa, the centre of the famine belt where 100 people have been dying each day, aid workers were in no doubt about what foreign troops should do when they come to the city. "There is no way that the operation could be successful in the long term unless the guns are taken out of circulation," Lockten Morrissey, head of Care International, which distributes relief from the UN World Food Programme, said. The Care houses and compounds have been attacked at least eight times in the past fortnight, as

have the centres of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Irish Concern and the Irish charity, Goal.

While aid workers last night adopted their now standard procedure of surrounding themselves with extra guards and laying ambushes for technicals in preparation for another night of looting, Italian soldiers and men from the American 10th Mountain Division landed in Mogadishu, the Somali capital.

In the countryside, which has been sown with anti-tank mines during fighting between rival clans during the past year, the atmosphere was calm. "All the technicals who used to trouble us are now on their best behaviour and have fled into the bush where they are hiding from the Americans," Dahir Aden, mayor of Eso, a village ten miles from the front, said.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 14



'Humanitarian colonialism' looms over Africa

BY SAM KILEY

COBRA helicopter gunships smacking the air overhead and zooming 20ft above the ground behind Somali battle wagons have been a breathtaking and welcome sight since their arrival in Mogadishu.

However, after the initial thrill of seeing venal teenage gunmen whose looting atrocities have stymied relief efforts since the country collapsed into anarchy, questions must be asked about the aims of the operation, and how these can be achieved. The answers could affect the continent.

The commander of the operation, US Marine Lieutenant General Robert Johnston, and Robert Oakley, Washington's envoy to Somalia, insisted yesterday that the aims of the deployment of 28,000 men, which will be completed in a week or so, are strictly "humanitarian". They said that the soldiers, told to use whatever force is necessary to protect themselves and food convoys, will do no more than that.

On the ground American officials insist that their troops will not carry out a disarmament programme and that the division will not stay much beyond a month.

One can only hope that they are being economical with the truth and that Lawrence Eagleburger, the Secretary of State, was more open when he said that the American mission would be to "pacify" Somalia.

Aid workers are in agreement that to withdraw so soon would achieve little. "There is no way that you can pull out of here and just clear off after a month. If an intervention force is going to be useful, then it has to stay here until the country has been sorted out. If the US were to go after a month the whole place would just collapse again," said Lockten Morrissey, head of Care International in Baidoa.

Aid workers agree that if anything is to be achieved beyond alleviating the famine, the solution must be coupled with a programme to confiscate the thousands of

guns in circulation. Thus, the American forces, supported by troops from six countries, must have a mandate that allows them to stay longer. This may be the secret agenda of the Americans and the United Nations.

An announcement over the weekend that US Marines would start snatching weapons from ragged teenagers would precipitate a backlash that would that many American soldiers would return home in body bags.

After assuring Somalis that an indefinite recolonisation is not planned, the Ameri-

cans would be better advised to gather in the guns, possibly paying \$100 (£64) for each weapon, followed by house-to-house searches and sweeps with metal detectors for the thousands buried.

This appears to be what the American commanders are planning and they have been embarrassed by politicians' revelations that a disarmament programme is the only way to guarantee the security of relief workers and convoys, and that means troops will have to stay on.

There is another reason for the narrow brief. The mar-

ines' deployment, sanctioned by the UN, has violated the sovereignty of Somalia and it is important to give the impression that Operation Restore Hope is a one-off.

The Organisation of African Unity has been notable in its silence on yesterday's "invasion". This is because the continent is crumbling under tribal pressures caused by boundaries drawn with a disregard for ethnicity by the outgoing colonial powers. If the international community wants to head off catastrophes on a scale matching Somalia it must be prepared

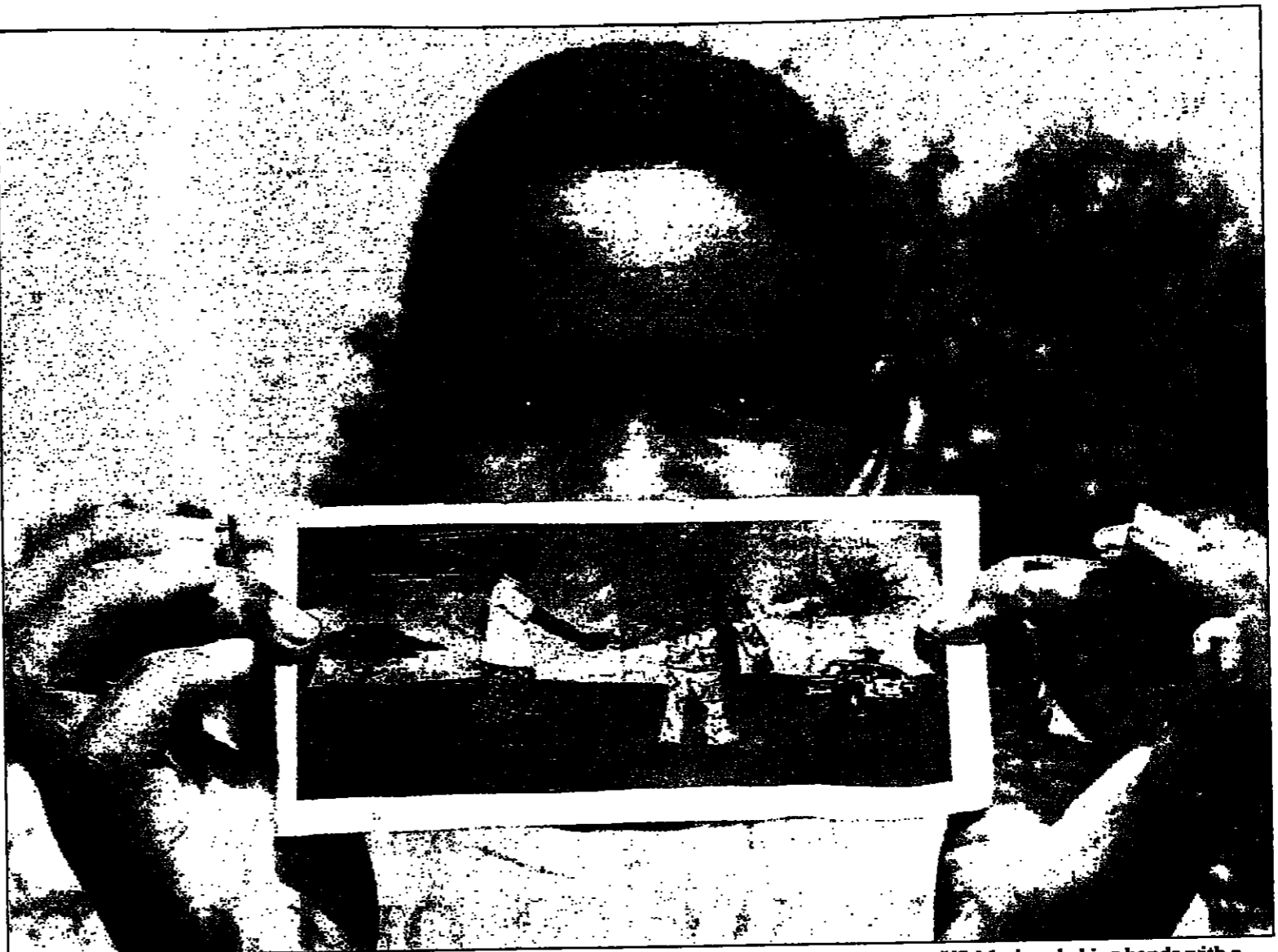
to say that some countries are incapable of governing themselves, or are putting citizens at risk, and troops should be sent in.

This seems to be the thinking of Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, who has asked for troops to be sent to Angola and Mozambique to separate the sides in their civil wars. But is the world ready for "humanitarian colonialism"? If not, it had better brace itself for some gruesome television next year.

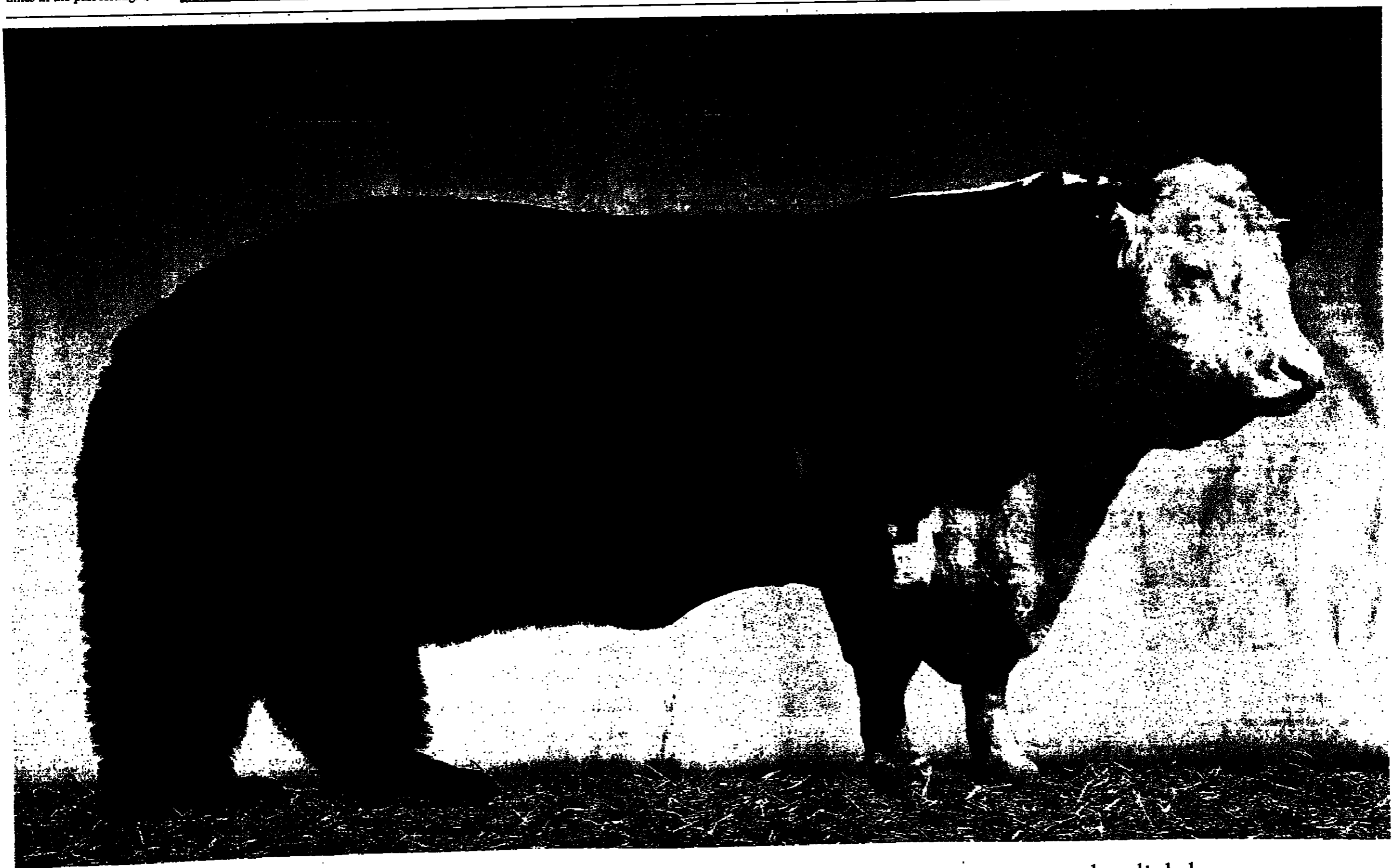
□ New York: Somalia's gun-

wielding clansmen are invariably described as "drug-crazed" on television, and the evil properties of khat, the narcotic shoot chewed by most Somali men, are seen as another reason for curbing their power. There are signs that khat, which contains a mild amphetamine, may be catching on in ghettos (Ben Macintyre writes).

In parts of Harlem and Queens, khat can be bought openly for about \$30 a kilo. "It's like cocaine," one drug dealer told *The New York Times*, "but it doesn't give you that rush and it seems to stain your teeth."



Advance notice: a youth in Baidoa holding up a leaflet dropped by American planes, which shows a US Marine shaking hands with a Somali in a peace gesture. The American-led protection force, numbering more than 4,000, has been largely welcomed by Somalis



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Murder forces Iraqis to lie low

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN CAIRO

SEVERAL Iraqi dissidents and their families have been placed under armed guard in Jordan and others have gone into hiding after last week's assassination in the capital, Amman, of a nuclear scientist from Baghdad.

Two Iraqis, one alleged to be a senior intelligence agent, are to face trial for the murder which has spread fear among opponents of President Saddam Hussein's regime waiting in the capital for visas. The victim, Muayad Hassan Naji al-Janabi, had applied for a visa to visit Britain and planned to resettle in Libya.

The assassination has deepened the rift between Jordan and Iraq. King Hussein had already distanced himself from Baghdad.

West Bank sealed off in search for kidnapped Israeli

■ A Palestinian group opposed to Arafat is trying to wreck the peace talks. An Israeli policeman's life hangs in the balance

FROM BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI troops last night sealed off the occupied West Bank and began to make mass arrests in a hunt for Muslim fundamentalists threatening to kill an Israeli policeman they had taken hostage.

The fate of kidnapped Sergeant Major Nissim Toledano, 29, was unknown almost a day after the deadline the extremist gunmen had set for Israel to free their leader, Shaikh Ahmed Yassin, founder of the Hamas Islamic resistance movement.

Moshe Shahal, the Israeli police minister, said the government had to know first if the paramilitary border policeman was alive. Muhammad Nazzari, Hamas head in Jordan, said he did not know the condition of Major Toledano.

seized inside Israel on Sunday by Hamas's military wing, the Qassam unit, but said Hamas was ready to talk if Israel showed a willingness to free Yassin.

Hamas has cast a shadow over Middle East peace efforts by continuing to hold the policeman as hostage in its effort to derail Israeli-Palestinian talks and eclipse Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation. Confronting Israel with its first abduction ultimatum since the beginning of the five-year Palestinian uprising, Hamas militants have threatened to kill Major Toledano unless authorities released Yassin, 57, their wheelchair-bound leader.

Yassin was sentenced to life imprisonment last year on charges of ordering the killing

of an alleged Palestinian collaborator. Yassin looked frail and complained of health problems during an Israel television interview from his cell in which he pleaded that the soldier's life be spared.

The movement was founded five years ago yesterday in the Gaza Strip and its potential was grossly underestimated by military authorities who, at first, tolerated it as a counterbalance to the influence of the PLO. Its slogan is that "Islam is the solution" to military occupation.

In the minds of many Israelis, the abduction conjured images more often associated with their costly involvement in Lebanon than with the occupied territories, and pointed towards a worsening of the Palestinian-Israeli



Security drive: an Israeli soldier questions a Palestinian near Ramallah during the search for an Israeli hostage

confrontation just six months after the left-centre government of Yitzhak Rabin took power on a peace platform. It followed a series of successful Hamas attacks on soldiers, including the killing of three reservists north of Gaza City last week.

For Palestinians, the kidnapping was another sign that Hamas had seized the initiative on the ground from the secular nationalists of the PLO. Hamas believes the entire area that once constituted Palestine is a sacred Islamic trust and therefore rejects the present PLO-backed talks with Israel as a sellout. "If this momentum continues I think that unfortunately the Palestinians will be pressed to drop out of the peace talks," Othman Halaq, editor of the *al-Nahar* in Arab east Jerusalem

wrote. Hamas claims it enjoys the support of 45 per cent of Palestinians in the occupied territories. Its opponents do not dispute that the lack of progress in negotiations is increasing its backing.

Dr Mahmud al-Zahar, spokesman for the movement, reflected its growing confidence by advising Israel not to delay in releasing Yassin. "Israel should not put conditions

now. To ask for signs of life from the soldier would aggravate the situation."

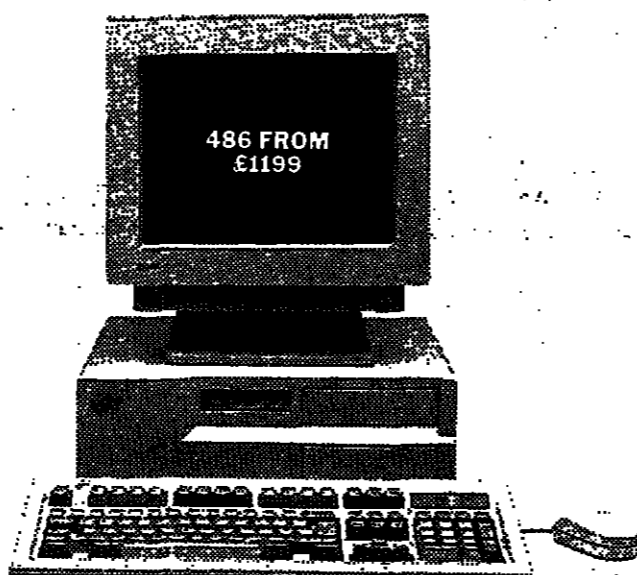
Algeria: Five police officers were killed when their patrol was ambushed in the Algerian capital yesterday morning. Police said five men with machine pistols fired at their vehicle in the Kouba district near a mosque frequented by Islamic fundamentalists. (AFP)

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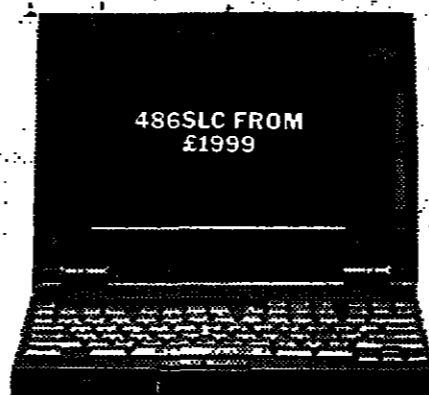
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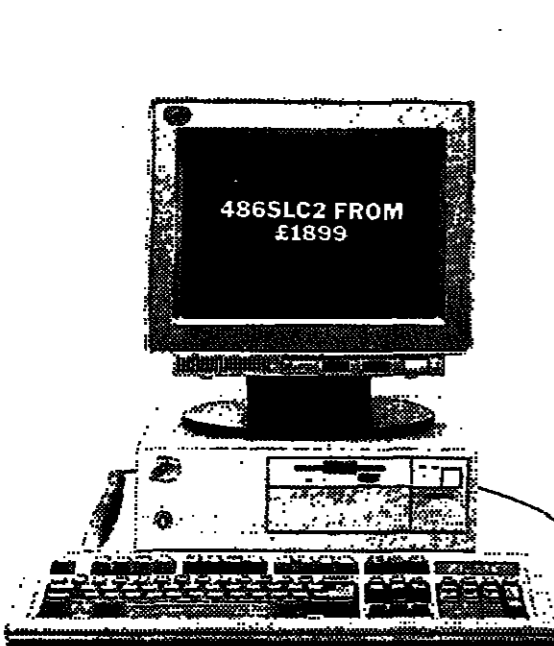
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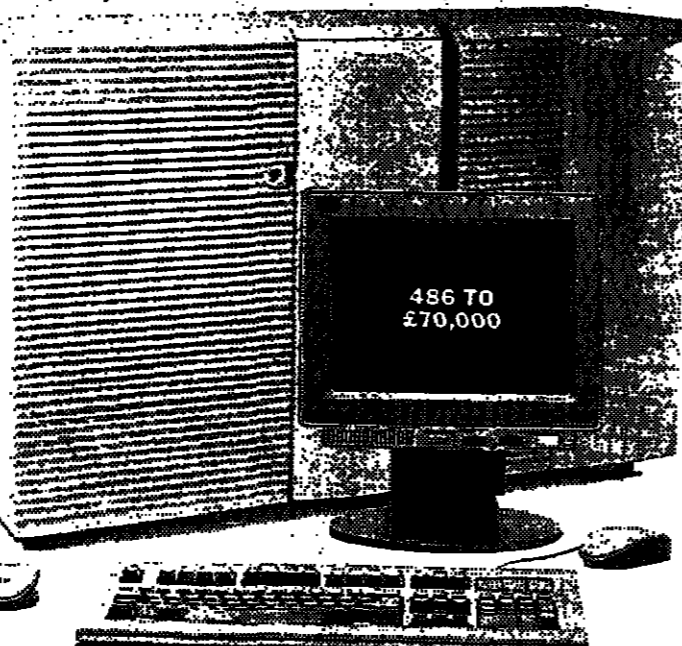
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Clinton outlines economic targets

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ON THE day that America's electoral college formally voted to make Bill Clinton the next US president, the former Arkansas governor yesterday began building a national consensus for his plans to rebuild the economy by convening an unprecedented two-day economic summit in Little Rock, Arkansas. He suspended all further announcements of administration appointments.

Originally conceived as a private retreat for a few dozen economists and businessmen, the meeting ballooned into a media extravaganza attended by 329 people, ranging from Nobel prize-winning economists and corporate luminaries to the owner of a South Dakota flower shop. Only politicians were excluded.

Mr Clinton welcomed the conferees as "the most distinguished and diverse group of Americans ever to meet to discuss our economic problems". All nine hours of the meeting were being broadcast live on television. There were even slots for the public to telephone in their ideas.

The summit's purpose was primarily symbolic. Mr Clinton has spent the past 11 months expounding his economic plan, and over the weekend aides ruled out any substantial revisions. The purpose was, in Mr Clinton's words, more "to reconnect the American people to their government", to signal a new focus on the economy after the seeming complacency of the Bush administration and to start preparing the public for some of the tough choices that lie ahead, including curbing health care costs.

Mr Clinton promised health care reform during the campaign, giving most people

the impression that they would receive more and better services, but yesterday he pointed out that health care would account for half the increase in the federal deficit over the next five years. Those costs had to be reduced.

Since the election, Mr Clinton has placed markedly less emphasis on short-term economic stimulation and his promise of a middle-class tax cut and much more on tackling America's fundamental economic problems, most notably the deficit. Interest payments on the national debt now consumed 15 cents of every tax dollar, he said. The deficit was an "economic ball and chain dragging us down".

Mr Clinton outlined four priorities in addition to ending "the cycle of borrow and spend economics". He called for much wider education and training, increased public and private investment to create jobs, an energy and environmental policy with less dependence on foreign oil and a greater willingness by all Americans "to give something back to the country".



Clinton: determined to reduce the deficit

Fresh tremors worry Indonesia survivors

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ALMOST 1,600 bodies have been found since the earthquake and huge tidal waves turned parts of Indonesia's eastern "Isle of Flowers" into a cemetery. Officials said 1,584 people were confirmed dead and many were missing.

Fresh tremors were shaking Flores, terrifying survivors. Herman Gadidjou, an aide to Hendrikus Fernandez, the governor of East Nusa Tenggara province, which includes Flores, said the death toll was expected to rise further. "We have no figures for the missing."

In Maumere, the tremors struck about every two hours and survivors faced another night under tents. Officials urged residents not to go back into those buildings still standing. "We are all very nervous," said Gabriel Pereira, a relief centre official.

Nearly 1,300 people died in the Maumere area, 19 miles from the offshore epicentre of the earthquake, which measured 6.8 on the Richter scale. Survivors said tidal waves swamped their fishing village three times and swept away many of the 2,000 residents. "The second wave was as high as a coconut tree," said Patamu, 30, a fisherman. "The waves were hot, like lava."

Tents have been put up outside the hospital to treat patients afraid of entering because of cracks in the walls. Lines have been forming at food distribution centres. Drinking water is scarce.

Rescue teams who searched for victims yesterday feared an epidemic among survivors. "We are badly in need of medicine, tents and volunteer relief workers," said Mr Gadidjou. President Suharto yesterday ordered the navy to help in relief operations.

Waves up to 80ft high were generated by the earthquake and up to 40 per cent of the buildings in Maumere were reported damaged. Yesterday bad communications, transportation problems and electrical blackouts hindered the search for survivors.

So-called tidal waves created by earthquakes under the sea often cause far greater death and destruction than the earthquake itself. They should be called seismic waves or tsunamis, the Japanese word for the phenomenon.

The waves can travel huge distances across the oceans in a few hours. A centre in Hawaii monitors tsunamis, but on Saturday the wave had reached Flores before any warning could be issued.

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Job for life? Live for a job

PAUL BROWN

The Princess of Wales has given up the job of being a royal wife, but hangs on to the possibility of being the mother of a King. Losing role and status is one of the most devastating consequences of redundancy. Not being wanted at work can cause similar desperation to not being wanted as a wife or husband. Being based on loss, both have interesting similarities to grief after death. There are also important differences.

Death has its own finality. The reactions of disbelief, feeling that time is suspended, the rage, despair, hopelessness and emptiness are the *sequelae* common to redundancy and death. Yet somewhere within the mind, we know that there is absolutely nothing that can be done to reverse the ending of a life. It is this which triggers the proper processes of mourning and creates the shift to acceptance of the inevitable.

In redundancy, however, there is no such finality. The person or people who have caused one's loss remain alive and well. Their jobs remain, as do all the trappings that position and authority provide.

The rage that results from badly-managed redundancy can create murderous fantasies. Setting up in competition and "killing off" the source of the pain is one displacement activity through which commercialism justifies the darker underlying motive, as does joining the opposition with "I'll show them" as the unwritten part of the new contract.

What is lost to the redundant executive is not only income and the trappings of office, but that vital sense of identity and well-being which comes from work. It can feel like the death of self.

For many people, their job defines their existence. A doctor may be loved by his patients yet have impoverished relationships at home; a managing director expects the same unquestioning back-up from his wife as he commands on a salary basis from his secretary.

The identity they get from work tells them who they are. Many men are only happy meeting strangers at dinner when conversation has managed to elicit exactly what the stranger does: not who he is but what he does.

Redundancy and its threat calls defences into play. Fright can make a person hang on too long. More secretly, fear that creates a sense of flight can make the person deny there is anything wrong at all. Many employees see the prospect of redundancy, but deny the inevitable as long as possible.

Some evidence shows that when redundancies are beginning to be an option for a company, the good people — those the firm needs for its long-term resilience — are the ones who dare to pick up the weak signals and leave voluntarily and early. They are least afraid of looking after themselves in a hostile market place. The firm is then left to plan its future on the less resilient among the workforce.

Underlying personality processes come into play here. There are those who by nature stabilise organisations and are essentially supportive. They fundamentally dislike change in the order of things. Such people are often to be found in the personnel and financial or strategic planning side of companies. Thus, those who ought to be thinking most creatively about change in difficult times will be those who operate most conservatively.

There are also those who are temperamentally well adapted to change, and like to be where the action is. They leave. The company then suffers lost opportunity and the expense of hiring the same kind of people all over again.

The most dangerous defensive reaction to redundancy is frolic. Beware well-meaning friends who encourage it, satisfying their own needs vicariously.

The time for cruises around the world or painting the house is when the next job has been landed. A proper order of priority is about dealing with the world as it is, not as fantasy would have it be.

Reality can be hard to bear, though. Perhaps Jerome K Jerome got it more right than most: "I like work; it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours. I love to keep it by me: the idea of getting rid of it nearly breaks my heart."

The author is a consulting chartered clinical and occupational psychologist.

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What is lost is the sense of identity. It can feel like the death of self

Victoria McKee reports on new research on good, bad and dangerous dieting



Picture of health?: those who coexist with their bulges, like Henry Moore's Reclining Woman, seem likely to live longer than people constantly fighting to lose a few pounds

For those trying to lose a few pounds in preparation for stuffing themselves like the turkey, or formulating new year's resolutions to follow a festive orgy of over-indulgence, 'tis the season to be thinking of dieting.

But fat diets are not merely fad. According to Dr Pierre Boulong of the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, northwest London, an expert on obesity and the workings of the metabolism, severe dieting can lead to the breakdown of protein in muscles, including heart muscle, and precipitate heart arrhythmia and lead to sudden death.

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) recently issued a "Facile" on diets to 37,500 GPs in the hope of educating them about some of the more desirable ones for the prevention and management of cardiovascular disease, and warning patients of unsuitable ones.

It tells doctors that weight-reducing diets should be low in fat and alcohol and that those diets which encourage a weight loss of up to 1kg (2.2lb) a week — best achieved by using a 1,000 kcal/day diet — are more likely to be effective than those encouraging more rapid weight loss. Crash diets claiming massive weight loss should be avoided as they encourage fatty eating and a cycle of starvation and bingeing. The facile notes that recent research suggests that "weight cycling" is associated with increased risk of coronary heart disease.

The BHF goes on to list diets which are acceptable, recommended, or not recommended. Only one is recommended — the "BBC Diet", a "well-balanced 1,000 kcal/day diet" that was devised by Dr Barry Lynch as part of his six-part series for the BBC. Acceptable are the "Eskimo Diet", involving the consumption of large quantities of oily fish in an otherwise balanced regimen avoiding sources of saturated fat; fibre-rich diets such as the F-Plan diet and, under medical supervision and only for the severely obese, "very low calorie diets" such as the Cambridge Diet, which provide fewer than 600 kcal/day.

"Not recommended" according to the BHF are the "8-Week Cholesterol Cure" diet, since "dietary changes causing plasma cholesterol reduction must be long-term for benefit to accrue", food combining or rotation diets, which suggest that you eat only certain types of food in the same meal

Good losers are not always winners

to prevent your body laying down fat since they are "of no value", metabolism burners or boosters claiming to speed up the metabolic rate (the rate at which the body burns energy) — "unfortunately it's not true" — and a three-day diet misleadingly known as "The British Heart Foundation" or "British Heart Institute" diet which has nothing to do with the BHF and is "poorly balanced".

Specifically criticised was Rosemary Conley's hugely successful "Hip and Thigh Diet" — on two counts: because the BHF does not believe that any diet should promise weight loss from a particular part of the body, and because the diet consists of avoiding fat completely.

Dr Ian Baird, the medical spokesman for the BHF, says: "Fat is necessary — in the gut, not on the hips — for adequate absorption of essential vitamins, and a very low fat diet could have a long-term effect on the bones. We want to reduce our fat intake to around 30 per cent of the diet, of which something like a third should be saturated fat, like cheese, and two thirds polyunsaturated like margarine and monounsaturated like olive oil."

But the BHF guidelines are not without their own critics. Dr Jill Welbourne, a psychiatrist specialising in eating disorders, who declares herself vehemently "anti-diet", defends Ms Conley's low-fat eating plan which is intended to be accompanied by moderate exercise. "A lot of people have come to reasonably sensible eating habits by using it, as long as they look on it as long-term guidance rather than a 'diet', which by its very name implies something you will go off, and as long as they include more oily fish and polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats than she recommends."

Ms Conley has already changed her best-selling diet along the lines

that Dr Welbourne suggests. "A new edition will be in the shops in January," Ms Conley says, "in which I have included fatty fish because I realised it wasn't going to have a destructive effect."

Dr Boulong questions calling very low calorie diets such as the Cambridge diet "acceptable" — even under medical supervision. "I work with very obese people, who require their jaws wiring together to stop eating, but I wouldn't advocate a diet

system. It's not a diet — it's to aid digestion. I suggest that if you're eating fish, chicken or meat it's a good idea to have greenery and fruit with them, but to save the potatoes, bread, pasta and rice for another meal. They can also be eaten with greenery and fruit. When you put protein and carbohydrate in the body at the same time, the enzyme systems will digest the proteins first and ignore the carbohydrate, which becomes undigested body fat and turns into middle-aged spread."

The greatest danger, the medical profession is beginning to agree, comes from "yo-yo-ing" up and down in weight. "There is quite a lot of evidence now supporting that," Dr Welbourne says. "Looking at American males on coronary heart disease prevention programmes, the groups of chubby 50-60-year-old chaps who lost weight had a higher death rate than the control groups that didn't diet, but whether this is to do with the psychological stress of dieting or the actual weight loss is difficult to tell."

A 12-year study of 12,000 men at Harvard University found that those who regularly lost and gained weight — even if their weight only actually changed by as little as 11 lb pounds — were one and a half times more likely to die than the men who did not lose and gain.

Dr Reuben Andres, an expert on morbidity and mortality as it relates to weight at the US National Institutes of Health, discovered that those who tend to put on a small amount of weight as the years go by survive best and that "yo-yo" dieting seems to put a greater strain on the system than carrying a moderate amount of excess weight. In Britain, Dr David Weeks, found that a characteristic shared by super-fit older people was a stability of weight, even if that weight

was above the recommended norm. "I'm not against losing weight," Dr Welbourne says, "but against the sort of diets that make it likely that people will binge, since crash diets are perceived by the body as famine and how you survive through a famine is to store fat when you can. You can't lose more than about a pound and a half of adipose tissue [fat] in a week — any more is bound to be muscle. Muscle goes quickly, and fat is laid on, so that chronic dieters develop a higher percentage of fat and slower metabolisms, and find it increasingly difficult to lose weight. But exercise can help to alter the metabolic pathways and some people can improve their metabolisms via exercise if they work at it."

Tomorrow at 9 pm, Channel 4's *Dispatches* investigates the billion pound diet industry and suggests that there is increasing evidence that dieting can be worse for the health than the annual Christmas over-indulgence. It offers the depressing news for Britain's millions of chronic dieters that 95 per cent of diets fail in the long-term.

A "new wave" of weight control organisations have sensed the changing mood and are promising a "Weigh Ahead", as one is called, without dieting. Dr Cherie Martin, who started Weigh Ahead as Weight Winners in Glasgow, now has branches in Edinburgh and London. They follow Dr Welbourne's thinking that overweight people should throw away their diet sheets and learn to distinguish between hunger and appetite — at £199 plus VAT for a four day course or once a week for seven weeks. Is this simply paving the way for a new type of tyranny? "No," Dr Martin says. "It's giving people back control over their eating habits."

She would support Dr Welbourne's advice that over Christmas it is better to enjoy that mince pie or portion of Christmas pudding when it is offered. "Take it, take time to really taste it, and allow yourself to have more if you really want to," Dr Welbourne counsels — than to resentfully resist and end up scoffing leftovers secretly in the kitchen.

"What people really want is to be able to re-set the metabolism centre in the brain, the hypothalamus," Dr Boulong suggests. "Drug companies are already working on that."

Those who regularly lost and gained as little as 11 lb were one and a half times more likely to die early than those who didn't

under 600 calories a day for anyone, nearer 1,000 is more sensible," he says. "Otherwise there is the danger of death from heart arrhythmia."

Dr Baird emphasises that "we are only saying that this diet is acceptable, in the short term, as a last resort for people whose life is at risk from their obesity."

Dr Terry Meredith, a GP who cannot remember receiving the facile sheet and suspects he might have thrown it away, normally just recommends an "eat-less diet, cutting out animal fats. Although this usually works well for men, women who have been dieting for years have much greater difficulty losing weight and might need some kind of new gimmicky diet to get started. I wouldn't discourage them from that, as long as it was short-term."

Joseph Corvo, a fitness adviser who promotes his food combining programme which is similar in principle to the famous Hay Diet, defends his

LAST week a terminally-ill cancer patient in America was treated with a new form of gene therapy, designed to make his brain tumour shrink. It will be several weeks before it is clear whether this revolutionary technique works, though it has proved effective in animal experiments.

The cancer treatment is one mark of the accelerating pace of gene therapy in treating a wide range of diseases. America has taken the lead, but two British proposals are now before the Committee on the Ethics of Gene Therapy. If approved, the first British gene transplants could begin next year.

As the cancer treatment indicates, gene therapy is not necessarily restricted to genetic diseases, though they are its most obvious application. Genetic diseases are caused by faults in one or more of the 100,000 genes that make up the human blueprint. Each gene has the task of making a particular protein; so a fault can mean that a protein vital to the functioning of some organ or other is not produced, leading to disease. If the gene can be replaced, then a cure may be possible.

The first gene therapy experiment was of this type. A four-year-old girl in America suffering from a genetic defect that prevented

Genes move to attack

her immune system from producing a vital enzyme, adenosine deaminase (ADA), was injected with about one billion of her own blood cells which had been altered to contain the correct gene. Since the therapy began in September 1990, she has been well and living a normal life. A second girl has since been treated, with equally encouraging results.

Other genetic diseases which may be treated in a similar way include cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy. A gene flaw that prevents the body processing chloride properly causes cystic fibrosis. It leads to a build-up of mucus in the lungs and leaves its victims prone to infections. A variety of methods have been suggested for introducing normal genes into the lungs of patients.

One, to be tried by Dr Ronald Crystal at the US National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, is to incorporate the gene into the

common cold virus and infect the patients with it. The virus is modified so that it will not cause a cold, but will invade target cells carrying the correct gene. The hope is that the cells will then function properly.

An alternative method will be used by Professor Bob Williamson of St Mary's Hospital, in London, working with Dr Duncan Geddes, of the Royal Brompton Hospital, if they get approval. They will use a mist of fat particles, called liposomes, to carry the genes into the lungs, a method which may raise fewer safety issues than using a virus.

Against cancer a different approach will be used. In the American therapy which began last week at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, modified mouse cells were injected into an inoperable brain tumour. The modified cells produce a retrovirus containing a gene from the herpes virus.

A retrovirus is used because it belongs to a class of viruses that can only invade dividing cells. Since brain cells do not divide but tumour cells do, it will invade the tumour cells, carrying with it a small fragment of the gene of the herpes virus: not enough to cause the infection, but enough to make the cancer cells produce an enzyme that makes them a sitting target for the antiviral drug ganciclovir. If it works as it does in rats, the tumour cells should be killed while normal brain cells remain undamaged.

None of these techniques will involve germ cells — those found in the eggs, sperm and early embryo — so changes will not be passed to the next generation. Most gene therapy experts believe that the risks of changing these cells are at present too great to justify.

Yet in spite of the great hopes, not all is sweetness and light. Funding for another pioneering gene therapy experiment in the US designed to treat cancer has been stopped after the scientist responsible, Dr Steven Rosenberg, was criticised for continuing despite evidence that the method was not working as intended.

NIGEL HAWKES

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ARTS 25-27

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Hill succeeds Mansell in Williams team

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POWER DEAL



PowerGen has signed a deal with Eastern Electricity to provide coal-fired power worth £100 million a year Page 21

OWN DEAL

Wallers made from reindeer skins and tips on getting to grips with Euro-jargon — it's all in Your Own Business Page 28

WORK DEAL



As Ford prepares to announce job cuts in Britain and Germany, Volkswagen put workers on short-time Page 21

DRINK DEAL



Britain's licensing laws are overhauled for reform to allow sale of alcoholic drinks all day, Patrick Stevens says Page 29

Belgium forces EC enquiry on Dan-Air deal

By TOM WALKER AND COLIN NARBROUGH

BELGIUM has accused Sir Leon Brittan, European competition commissioner, of "unfair bias" towards British Airways and invoked a hitherto unused Community rule to force an enquiry into BA's takeover of Dan-Air, Britain's oldest independent airline.

The controversial takeover, approved by London and Brussels this autumn, will now be investigated by the European Commission for the impact the merger has on airline competition in Belgium.

In the unexpected move, Belgium, which has no national watchdog able to investigate the acquisition, invoked article 22 of the Community competition rules that obliges the commission to study a merger on a member state's behalf. The commission has a month to give a verdict.

The Dan-Air takeover gave BA an additional four return flights from Gatwick to Brussels. BA already has seven flights a day to Brussels from Heathrow. British Midland has eight flights to Brussels out of Heathrow, Brynmor four from London City airport and Air UK three from Stansted.

The acquisition of the loss-making Dan-Air, for a nominal £1, provoked a storm of protest from BA's rivals at home and abroad. Bernard Attali, the Air France president, campaigned with particular ferocity against the

Dan-Air staff are already wearing British Airways uniforms and the Dan-Air signs have disappeared at Gatwick. But the European Commission is to reinvestigate

takeover, seeing it as a BA advance into Belgium, where Air France had just struck an alliance with Sabena, the Belgian national carrier.

M Attali was further incensed over the commission's approval of BA's controlling stake in TAT, the French regional airline, which gives BA important access to the French market. Virgin Atlantic, British Midland, Air UK and Britannia all complained to the commission about the Dan-Air sale.

BA insisted yesterday's announcement was "not a reversal" of the go-ahead the commission gave six weeks ago, but a separate and narrowly defined investigation. Derek Ross, a BA spokesman, said the Belgian move was "totally unjustified", as there was plenty of competition on the London-Brussels route and plenty of room to expand on it. He said the takeover was a "done deal" with the merger process already in train.

Dan-Air signs have already disappeared from Gatwick, 450 former Dan-Air staff have donned BA uniforms, and the sale of Dan-Air's ten Boeing 737s has begun. Some 1,800 staff were made redundant by Dan-Air prior to the takeover. Davies & Newman, the

holding company which owned Dan-Air, last week held an extraordinary meeting to wind itself up. All the money involved in the deal, under which BA took on £35 million of liabilities, has already changed hands.

Industry experts in Brussels suspect that M Attali may have encouraged the Belgians to act, as France was unable to invoke the special clause used by Belgium. The article is reserved for countries that have no proper competition authorities.

A senior source in the Belgian civil aviation authority said he was "astounded" that BA's takeover of Dan-Air had been cleared without an enquiry by Brussels, while Air France's purchase of a 37.58 per cent of Sabena had been meticulously examined by Sir Leon just weeks before.

Sir Leon's spokesman denied his superior was biased against Sabena and Air France and said the Belgian complaint would have to be justified before Brussels took it seriously.

Other commission officials predicted that the enquiry would be little more than a formality. Undoing the takeover would be next to impossible, they said.

Post Office to freeze letter prices as long as possible

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Bryan Nicholson, Post Office chairman, pledged to freeze letter prices "for as long as possible" after revealing more than doubled profits of £135 million in the first half of the year.

Because of the strong financial performance, letter prices, which have not risen since September 1991, would remain unchanged until at least next April, he said. All but £4 million of the profit was made by Royal Mail, which has trimmed £70 million off its costs in a reorganisation. The parcels business continued to lose money, and Post Office Counters made £12 million.

"Prices will continue to be held for as long as possible in the new financial year," Sir Bryan said. His pledge was made against a background of continuing improvements in delivery reliability. The proportion of first-class letters delivered the day after posting reached 91.5 per cent during the first six months, exceeding the target agreed with the Post Office Users' National Council, the customers' watchdog.

The number of letters posted has risen by 1 per cent since March. Of the 61 million

items handled each day, almost nine out of ten are business letters or direct mail shots.

Tom Corrigan, chairman of the Post Office Users' National Council, attacked the size of the profit increase. "I think this demonstrates that stamp prices should not have gone up in the autumn of 1991," he said.

The uphill struggle of Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, to privatise the Post Office parcels business received a modest lift yesterday as evidence mounted that the



Nicholson: bowing out

business is returning towards profitability. The £21 million loss before tax in the Parcelforce business during the half to September 27, diminished an outstanding performance at the Post Office as a whole.

However, Parcelforce made a £3 million trading profit in October, and managers now believe it is on track to break even for the year as a whole. During the year to March, the parcels operation lost £24 million.

The Post Office's improvement was unveiled by Sir Bryan just seven days before he returns to the private sector, after a five-year stint during which the Post Office has been thoroughly reformed.

Sir Bryan, a former head of Rank Xerox, will become chairman of Varsity Corporation in Britain. He already heads the British United Provident Association (Bupa), the healthcare group.

His successor, Michael Heron, of Unilever, will face the difficult task of liaising with ministers over the future of the Post Office, which is under a wide-ranging review by the industry department.

Festive share-out on Wall Street

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

WALL Street has stepped up the scramble to beat the tax plans of President-elect Bill Clinton. Bear Stearns, the New York investment bank and among the industry's biggest payers, plans to issue \$173.8 million worth of shares to 130 senior staff before year end to limit the impact of tax reforms on high earners. The shares are part of a deferred pay plan that goes back over two years.

Salomon Brothers plans a similar share bonus, but has declined to provide details. Such moves form part of what is shaping up as a pay bonanza on Wall Street. Nine of the top investment banks have begun some form of plan to beat the tax increases.

Mr Clinton's reforms will limit the tax allowance available to corporations on executive pay, and the top rates of federal

tax will climb from 31 per cent to 36 per cent for individuals earning more than \$150,000. Current rules allow firms to claim all pay against profits. Mr Clinton's plan will limit that allowance to \$1 million per executive. The Securities Industry Association estimates that tens of thousands of brokers earn more than \$200,000 a year and several thousand are paid more than \$1 million.

Bonuses of stockbrokers and investment bankers can often make up two-thirds to three-quarters of their annual salary and are usually taken between December and January to split the tax payments over two years. Bear Stearns says its accelerated payments are in the interests of its own shareholders. By paying out share options this year, they estimate the firm will save \$160 million in tax allowances.

Industry is rapidly catching up. The top two executives at Walt Disney cashed

in a record \$253 million worth of personal share options this month. Michael Eisner, Walt Disney chairman and chief executive, converted options worth \$197 million, while Frank Wells, Disney's president, converted options valued at \$56 million.

Wall Street bonuses are expected to rise by between 20 per cent and 25 per cent this year, lifting the average Wall Street salary by 34 per cent over two years to \$110,000.

The scramble comes amid fresh attempts by investment banks to clamp golden handcuffs to keep their high earners from jumping ship. The leading American firms are attempting to derail the traditional high stakes poaching that takes place over the next two months once bonuses have been paid and firms embark on a human auction to attract successful brokers and their high fee-paying clients.

Roche buys Fisons health business

By OUR CITY STAFF

FISONS is selling its British consumer healthcare business, which includes the Sanatogen and Radian brand names, to Roche, the Swiss pharmaceutical group, for £90 million.

Added to the sale of the American consumer healthcare business for £93 million last month, the disposal will make a substantial hole in the company's borrowings of £239 million.

Fisons has still to dispose of its Australian, South African and French consumer healthcare operations and its horticultural division. Announcements on these disposals are expected early in the new year. At the end of June, the company's debts of £239 million amounted to 53 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Production will continue at the Fisons plant at Loughborough for the next year and will then transfer to the Roche vitamin plant in Scotland, with the net loss of 160 jobs.

Analysts said that Fisons had got a good price for the healthcare business, and the shares went up 2p to 212p.

Fisons is making the disposals to concentrate on its pharmaceutical and scientific instrument businesses. The latter has struggled in the recession and the former has suffered from complaints by the American Food and Drug Administration over drug production. Costs of bringing production of Opticrom, an eye ointment, up to FDA standards were partly responsible for the plunge in pre-tax profits from £95.2 million to £40.4 million in the six months to end-June. Opticrom was withdrawn from sale in America.

Banks to take stakes in Anglo

By PATRICIA TEHAN

MIDLAND and Barclays banks are to become shareholders in Anglo United, the smokeless fuels group, as part of a restructuring of its £250 million debts.

The move follows Anglo's £22.7 million drop into the red for the six months to end-September from £3 million losses in the first half of 1991. This is the second restructuring of its finances this year and sent the shares down 1.5p to 6p.

David McErlain, chairman, said Anglo was close to signing arrangements with its banks, led by Midland and Hongkong and Shanghai, which would convert £70 million of its debt into equity and convertible loan notes, defer

interest payments on another £50 million and reschedule the remaining £130 million.

The banks will provide additional facilities of about £15 million for working capital. Midland and Hongkong and Shanghai are the lead banks with 65 per cent between them. Barclays provided 10 per cent of the loans.

Existing shareholders will have just over 50 per cent of the company, but that could fall to 36 per cent. The losses are the result of continuing recession and customers holding higher stocks after the warm winter earlier this year. Talks to sell two of its businesses in July this year, which would have raised al-

most £50 million, collapsed just before contracts were completed. That forced Anglo to renegotiate its debt payment schedule in July.

The halfway figures show turnover down from £269 million to £244 million. The pre-tax loss of £22.7 million was reached after exceptional charges of £11.2 million.

The exceptional charges are made up of £7 million professional costs of the earlier restructuring agreement and the estimated costs of current proposals: £2 million costs of the aborted disposals; £1.4 million write-off of loans made to the Employee Share Ownership Plan Trust; and exceptional bad debts of £800,000.

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US dollar 1.5655 (+0.0055)
German mark 2.4597 (+0.0011)
Exchange index 80.3 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share 2067.2 (+4.4)
FT-SE 100 2721.8 (+5.6)
New York Dow Jones 3311.38 (+7.30)*
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17289.97 (-151.05)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 7%
3-month interbank: 7-7.5%
3-month eligible bills: 6-6.5%
US: Prime Rate: 8%
Federal Funds: 2.5-3%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.28-3.25%
30-year bonds: 102-102.5%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £: \$1.5650
£: DM1.4586
£: Sfr2.2055
£: FF8.3810
£: Yen123.98
£: Index: 80.3
ECU: £0.797870
£: ECU1.253397
London Forex market close

London: New York: AM \$335.30 PM \$335.20
Close \$335.00-\$335.50
\$215.00-\$215.50
New York: Corn \$ 3.94-3.95-3.96*

Brent (Jan) \$16.10/bbl (\$18.10)

RPI: 139.7 November (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Eastern signs five-year deal for coal power

A deal between Eastern Electricity and PowerGen over coal-fired power points the way to five-year contracts between distributors and generators

By Patricia Tehan

EASTERN Electricity, the biggest of the 12 regional electricity companies in England and Wales, has signed a five-year deal for coal-fired power, increasing the pressure on the other companies to sign coal contracts with the generators to help to safeguard miners' jobs.

Eastern has signed with PowerGen, the smaller of the two generators, for 21 terawatt hours of electricity, equivalent to more than eight million tonnes of coal. The deal is worth more than £100 million a year.

The contract is for 40 per cent of Eastern's share of the coal-fired power currently under negotiation between the regional companies and the power generators. That deal is for a total 40 million tonnes

next year, falling to 30 million tonnes for the following four. James Smith, Eastern's chairman, said he hoped to sign a deal of a similar size with National Power before Christmas and would sign up for the remaining 20 per cent of its share with whichever of the two generators offered the best deal.

The contract is dependent on PowerGen finalising its negotiations with British Coal for a five-year coal supply. It comes into effect on March 31 when the current contracts between British Coal, the generators and the regional companies run out.

Jim Keohane, commercial director of East Midlands, is heading a team negotiating on behalf of the regional companies.

East Midlands said it remained keen to do a five-year deal "because we think that means stability and would not preclude any supplementary arrangements that may be required".

Eastern first made it clear it was negotiating its own deal last month when it signed heads of agreement with the two generators.

Mr Smith said: "We believe that there is an advantage to being first in this in terms of getting the best price, related to matching our load profile to the generation available."

In the deal with PowerGen, Eastern has become the first of the regional companies to persuade a generator to provide a hedge against the cost of electricity in the pool, or spot market. Ed Wallis, chief executive of PowerGen, said the contract with Eastern was a further demonstration of PowerGen's determination to conclude a satisfactory contract with British Coal.

Sources involved in the talks say they are being held up because there are still too many uncertainties. They say a deal is unlikely before the middle of January.

Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, has written to Neil Clarke, British Coal's chairman, arguing the case for a one-year deal to carry the coal industry over its present period of uncertainty.

But yesterday, Mr Clarke gave a warning that a one-year coal contract would not be enough to secure the future of the coal industry.

He said that "only a radical transformation" of the market for coal would save a significant number of the 31 collieries on the company's original closure list.

Call to alter electricity regulations

THE head of one of Britain's biggest power companies is calling for a change in utility regulations to allow companies to profit from selling less electricity (Ross Tienan writes).

Ian Preston, chief executive of Scottish Power, said Britain should study American initiatives that allow companies to make more profit from promoting energy efficiency than by building power stations. "If we can find a way whereby the shareholder and the customer benefit from demand-side management, then we should pursue it," Dr Preston said. "We should start now."

His call reflects growing public pressure for measures to promote energy efficiency, and a widening realisation among power companies that such measures are more cost-effective than building new generating stations.

In a report published yesterday, the environmental pressure group Greenpeace suggests energy-efficiency initiatives could create 50,000 jobs in the next decade.

Greenpeace commissioned Betty Krier, an American economist, to examine the effects of the US electricity industry's \$3.1 billion a year environmental spending.

Ms Krier concluded that each dollar invested in electricity efficiency avoids spending \$1.5 to \$1.75 on electricity supply. In the United States, efficiency measures had already created 80,000 jobs, she said. Ms Krier predicted that annual spending by American utilities on electricity-efficiency measures would more than double by the end of the decade, and could reach \$10 billion a year.

A recent study for the Association for the Conservation of Energy, conducted by Professor Gerald Mannors of University College, London, suggested energy efficiency measures could create 50,000 jobs in Britain over the next ten years.

Last week, Manweb became the first of Britain's 12 regional electricity companies to set up a scheme to reduce power demand.

The measures will range from supplying low-energy lights and insulation to householders, to advising industrial and commercial customers on energy efficiency.



Looking up: Tony Pidgley sees an opportunity for Berkeley, one of Britain's most profitable builders, to take advantage of fallen property values

Summit calms markets

By Janet Bush
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

RELIEF over the outcome of the Edinburgh summit calmed European currency markets. Dealers and investors were disappointed, however, at the lack of overt measures to strengthen the exchange-rate mechanism.

The summit, by seemingly keeping the move towards European political and monetary union on course, and by agreeing a modest growth package, removed one negative issue that had exerted pressure on the ERM. But it has not changed the fundamental source of tensions — the Bundesbank's high interest rate policy.

Sterling was little changed, stuck at around DM2.4550, where it closed on Friday. The French franc and the Danish crown, both prime targets for speculation last week, strengthened a little but their recovery against the mark was limited. The German currency rose somewhat against the dollar and the Swiss franc.

For the French currency, there was good news from figures showing French inflation at a six-year low of 2.1 per cent in November. However, there is still considerable nervousness. Opposition voices in France are questioning the government's strong franc policy as the economy remains stagnant and unemployment rises. The franc remains in the danger zone.

Despite the fact that the weekend accord opened the way for a second Danish referendum, there was little speculation against the Danish crown.

Scottish Provident to buy Prolific from Hafnia

By Sarah Bagnall

SCOTTISH Provident, the mutual insurer, is to pay £81.75 million for Prolific Group, the life insurance, pensions and unit trust company, owned by Hafnia, the troubled Danish insurer.

Included in the price, which compares with the £90 million Hafnia paid for Prolific in September 1989, is more than £20 million in cash.

David Woods, managing director of Scottish Provident, said that the acquisition, which is being financed in cash, will cause the group's adjusted free asset ratio, which was 25-27 per cent at the end of last year, to fall by about 2 per cent.

The deal boosts Scottish Provident's funds under management by about 37 per cent from £3.1 billion to more than £4.25 billion. Prolific's life company has more than £700 million of funds under management, while the fund management company has about £350 million. Scottish Provident is also buying Prolific's offshore company, based on the Isle of Man.

Mr Woods said that the two businesses fitted well together. Prolific's life operation, which is mainly in the unit-linked, unit trust and Pep businesses, is to be merged with Scottish Provident's life operation, which is a with-profits office. As a result, the Prolific name will be dropped, including for the offshore business, which gives Scottish Provident access to a new market.

But the Prolific name will remain for the fund management operation, which will be run separately from Scottish

Provident's existing operation. Mr Woods said this was because Prolific's fund management business has a strong brand name and is based in London, while Scottish Provident is based in Edinburgh.

The bulk of the consideration is to be paid when the relevant authorities, which include the department of trade and the Isle of Man authorities, approve the deal. This is expected early next March. The remaining £6.25 million tranche, which is for items, including tax, that cannot be verified at this time, is due a year later.

Mr Woods said it was unlikely that there would be any

redundancies but that he expected some movement between the two groups. Furthermore, there "is bound to be a degree of rationalisation in corporate functions", he added.

Any changes to the top management are as yet undecided but Jean Wood, managing director of Prolific, is taking on a senior role in the new entity.

The two groups have different types of managers and there will have to be an audit in terms of where the strengths and weaknesses lie, he said, adding that the "intention is to get the best of what there is in the two groups".

Berkeley says good buy to the slump

BERKELEY Group, the house-builder, is investing another £100 million in the commercial property market to take advantage of the slump in values and high yields (Neil Bennett writes).

Tony Pidgley, chief executive, said the group had agreed to double the size of Berkeley Eastcoast Investment, its venture with Saad Investments, the Saudi holding company. Berkeley will invest up to £20 million in BEL.

Berkeley is one of the most profitable builders on the stock market. Pre-tax profits rose 27 per cent to £5.92 million in the half year to end-October, with house sales up from 336 to 468. The interim dividend rises 10 per cent to 1.65p.

Tempos, page 20

VW plant to work reduced hours

By Colin Nabbrough

VOLKSWAGEN joined other leading German carmakers suffering from deteriorating demand, by announcing plans to introduce short-time working at its Wolfsburg plant, in Lower Saxony, in the first quarter of next year.

The company said 12 days of short-time were foreseen for the three-month period; it had not yet been decided how many of the 40,000 production employees would be affected. The Wolfsburg works produces the Golf.

VW shares fell sharply on the Frankfurt exchange, touching a new low for this year before steadying. This was in spite of an earlier warning from VW's workers' council that short-time working was planned.

Plans to reduce production at German car plants have been caused by a weak international economy and domestic recession.

The authoritative German economic institute, Ifo, predicted that western Germany's gross national product would probably contract by 0.5 per cent in 1993.

Trade union sources said Ford Motor was expected to announce 5,000 job cuts in Britain and Germany tomorrow. They said the company might announce plans to close the body and assembly plant for Escort and Orion cars at Halewood, near Liverpool.

Ford declined to comment, but confirmed that management and unions are to meet tomorrow in Britain and Germany.

Motor industry analysts believe VW's short-time announcement is intended as a signal to the workforce that big job cuts can be expected next year, after Carl Hahn steps down as chief executive.

At the moment, Wolfsburg is working overtime, but the flow of new orders has prompted concern about the future throughout the German car industry.

Only BMW appears to have been able to ride out the current downturn.

Heseltine to present awards

By Our City Staff

MICHAEL Heseltine, the trade secretary, will be guest speaker and present awards at the next Coopers & Lybrand awards dinner, held in association with *The Times*.

The annual event, formerly known as the USM awards but now extended to fully listed companies, will take place on March 11 at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London.

The awards are open to companies with a market capitalisation of up to £200 million. This covers about 1,800 companies, or 80 per cent of all quoted stocks.

Awards will be presented in six categories, including, for the first time, the best perform-

ing small company fund. Voting for the awards will be through a coupon to be published in *The Times*. A panel of judges will select a shortlist of six candidates for each award. Shortlisted candidates will be profiled in *The Times* early in the new year.

COOPERS & LYBRAND
PLC
AWARDS

Last year's winners included Medeva, the pharmaceuticals group, chosen as company of the year, and Airtronic, as the best performing share. David Goldman, chairman of Sage Group, a computer consultancy, was entrepreneur of the year. There will once again also be awards for the best annual report and accounts and best new company.

The deadline for nominations is January 22 and the judging panel will meet and make its selections in the week that follows. Nominations are sought from financial advisers, public relations companies and other organisations representing smaller companies.

SFA restricts futures and options firm

By Sara McConnell

THE Securities and Futures Authority (SFA) has served an intervention order on David Coakley Ltd, a futures and options trader, severely restricting the investment business the firm can carry out.

It is believed private investors may have lost more than £100,000.

The SFA said yesterday: "The firm has been trading in futures and options for private clients on an advisory basis and has repeatedly failed to ensure that investments undertaken on behalf of those clients were

appropriate for them and has placed the interests of the firm above the interests of the clients."

The SFA said there had been a "significant" number of complaints over the summer. Several hundred private investors are thought to have put money with the firm, after responding to press advertisements, and then been subjected to high-pressure telephone selling by salesmen.

Under the intervention order, David Coakley can carry out investment business on an execution-only basis for non-private clients or transactions necessary to

close out other client positions. The firm has to transfer all assets or positions of other clients to outside brokers within 14 days or return the assets within the same time.

The firm is allowed to continue to do business for clients whose investments are managed by commodity trading advisers or by Leonard Berney, a financial adviser in Spain.

Any advertising material has to be approved by the SFA and the firm has to tape all telephone conversations, and keep the tapes for four months.

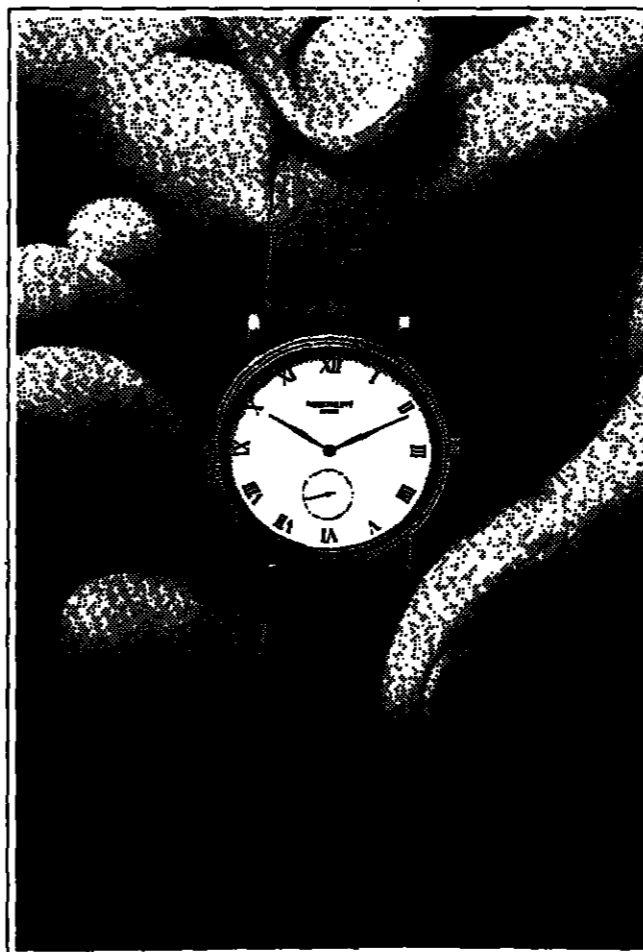
The restrictions imposed

by the SFA on the firm's business are designed to prevent more investors being exposed to similar risks. If the intervention order is breached, the firm could be closed down.

Intervention orders of this kind are "quite rare", the SFA said. They are made when the enforcement committee believes firms may not be fit and proper to do the investment business they are carrying on or when it is believed firms may have been guilty of misconduct. They are also used if investors need to be protected.

The SFA's investigation is continuing.

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PANTO page 26
Alan Ford is the Dame in a traditional Christmas show at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East

ARTS

OPERA page 27
John Fisher: a British lion in Venice, he is conducting at Covent Garden for the first time



ARCHITECTURE: Marcus Binney detects a sea-change in attitude to the much-derided suburban semi-detached

Genuine affection for Mock Tudor

Scorn and ridicule have always been the lot of the suburban semi. Even Osbert Lancaster, who wrote with waspish affection of styles such as Wimbledon Transitional, Bankers' Georgian and Pseudish, could only revile what he dubbed Bypass Variegated. To D.H. Lawrence they were "horrid little red mantraps"; for W.H. Auden they stood "isolated from each other like cases of fever". Clough Williams-Ellis, one of the first great campaigners against urban sprawl, claimed "they were mean and perky little houses that surely none but mean and perky little souls could inhabit with satisfaction". In 1942 a handy Penguin book entitled *Living in Cities*, distributed to British troops,

'The origin of the semi can be traced back to a plan drawn up in 1794'

Today the semi has its champions, and none too soon. A tide of plastic windows and DIY alterations is robbing Bypass Variegated of its authentic trim.

First came Alan A. Jackson in his *Semi-detached London* (1973), reissued in 1991 with numerous illustrations of contemporary advertisements and postcards, and then the engaging polemic of *Dunrobin: The Suburban Semi and its Enemies* by Paul Oliver, Ian Davis and Ian Bentley. "You live in one of Edgware's semis? Better move to a more civilised address, like Camden Town," Davis was told at architectural school.

Yet measured in terms of building houses which people live in long after the first tower blocks have gone, inter-war suburbia is an impressive achievement. Lloyd George had won an election in 1918 on the promise of providing "homes for heroes". Up to 400,000 houses were held to be needed immediately. A committee was established under the MP Sir John Tudor Walters (the Tudor was to be unexpectedly appropriate) to recommend patterns and densities.

For large blocks of tenements and flats, Tudor Walters said, "no advocate appeared". Flats were out, setting England on a very different path from continental Europe.

Between 1918 and 1939 over 4,170,000 houses were built. To the American writer Herbert Gray, England's success in housing the people was "an accomplishment that history will class as one of civilisation's greatest strides".

As early as 1902 H.G. Wells had imagined how the revolution in communications, the railway, the Underground, the telephone and telegraph, could turn all Britain south of the Highlands into one vast urban region. Wells foresaw horse suburbs, "smart white gates and palings everywhere"; gardening suburbs, "gables, roses and holly hedges"; golf districts among heathery moorlands; and river districts "with gaily painted boathouses peeping from the osiers".

The origin of the semi can be traced back to the Eyre Estate in London's St John's Wood. Here the auctioneers, Spurrier & Phipps, drew up a plan in 1794 for an estate of semi-detached houses laid out around a circus crescent and

square, though this was not developed until the 1830s-1840s. Later, the Victorian and Edwardian practice of building extensions behind houses, back to back, led to houses being built in pairs, with alleys in between providing access to garden and dust-bins.

But it was Tudor Walters who determined one of inter-war suburbia's most distinct characteristics: the wide road flanked by grass verges, pavements and front gardens. In an age when tuberculosis was rampant, it was held that sunshine was necessary to health, and that every room must have its quota of sunlight. In London, Tudor Walters calculated an open space of 70 feet was necessary to ensure that sunlight would reach ground-floor front rooms at noon on December 25. Forgetting the peacoupers that were prevalent at the time, this standard was adopted throughout the country. The broad verges also provided an easy path for gas, electricity and water mains.

A second characteristic of semi-detached suburbia was that the houses had no basement. One of the first estates to dispense with these had been Bedford Park in Chiswick, birthplace of the Queen Anne revival, with the gables and bay windows that later became hallmarks of the semi. A version of Queen Anne, with square bay windows and Surrey-style tiling adorning the facades, was adopted between the wars. But the style that became ubiquitous was Tudor.

Tudor can indeed be claimed as the most popular British style of the 20th century. It may have meant no more than a few creosoted



Small world, small semi and small car, in an unidentified outer London suburb in the 1930s. From Alan A. Jackson's *Semi-detached London*, second edition, 1991

floorboards applied to a front (actual half-timbered construction was banned), but it distinguished owner-occupiers from nearby council estates. It evoked domesticity and Merrie England. To the new *Ideal Home* magazine, in 1922, "the English half-timbered home-stead seems to epitomise the traditions of the race."

A persistent criticism of the semi was that it was jerry-built, precisely the charge made against much of Georgian London (which, like the semi, survives today, as popular as ever). With this goes the charge that poor design resulted from the unwillingness of many building firms to use architects. If this charge is true, the blame must be laid at the door of the Royal Institute of British Architects, which in 1922 amended its code to prevent its members from undertaking dev-

elopment, defining practice in a way that would have debarred the activities of John Wood in Bath, or John Nash in Regent Street.

Since late Victorian times small builders had been able to obtain house plans almost by return of post, simply by writing to the *Illustrated Carpenter and Builder* with their requirements. However, Professor Jeremy Whitehead, of Birmingham University, who has just launched a major survey of inter-war suburbia, believes "architects will prove to have a much larger role in designing semis than previously thought". He goes on: "Research on Edwardian housing has shown that many of the drawings in planning offices are signed by architects." Certainly the modern versions with wrap-round metal windows were designed by architects, notably by Welch,

Cachemaille-Day and Lander. Though price was critical, a surprising amount of ornamental trim went with many semis, notably stained glass in the front door and porch windows and often in the upper lights of bay windows. Inside hallways, Old England may have ruled, but often the stained panelling and picture rails have a distinct kinship with Frank Lloyd Wright's early houses in Chicago.

The main selling point was the labour-saving kitchen — the three-bedroom semi, unlike most Edwardian counterparts, was built for a life without servants. Undoubtedly the semi, compared with the terraced house, was wasteful of land, but this is ironically not a lesson that has been learnt. The same criticism can be made of new

towns, business parks and executive estates today.

Monotony is also undeniable. Fine trees were too rarely retained, and when new trees were planted they were usually smaller varieties such as cherries, rather than the great forest trees which ennoble similar housing estates in much of America and Holland.

If suburbia is tedious and regimented it is infinitely better than "shacklands" such as Peacehaven on the Sussex coast, where plots were sold to individual owners to build what they liked. It is only when you obtain a vantage point or look at the suburbs from the air that the sheer formality of many layouts becomes apparent. Versailles-style radiating avenues and concentric circles were more common than the picturesque layouts one might expect.

In preservation terms inter-war suburbia is still largely uncharted territory. A few conservation areas have been designated. But while it would make sense to list the occasional untouched semi to ensure it survives with all its original trim, there is no sign this will happen. Julian Holder, of the heritage group Twentieth Century Society, says: "We are regularly rung up by house buyers who have just seen a perfect period semi that is beyond our means and they are in despair that it will be bought by someone who will wreck it."

The time has come to form a Semi Society. With a constituency of four million households it could quickly become one of Britain's largest preservation groups, giving it a potential muscle that would make the Historic Houses Association look like a bantamweight.

GALLERIES: John Russell Taylor on a surprising show of British works on paper

Terrific draughtsmen in here

A catchy title does not necessarily tell the whole story. Perhaps, if it is catchy enough, it does not need to. Take *Beardsley to Bomberg*, which is attached to a show of works on paper culled from the Tate Gallery's permanent collection. The period covered is 1870-1920, one which encompassed the whole headlong progression (headlong even in conservative Britain) from Victorianism to Modernism. Beardsley, strictly speaking, is right in the middle somewhere. One of the artists represented, Frederick Walker, died in 1875 when Beardsley was only three. But then, "Frederick Walker to Ethel Walker", though rather more accurate, would clearly ring far fewer bells.

It is desirable that as many bells as possible should be rung, because the show itself is so extraordinary. On the whole we associate works on paper with the British Museum rather than the Tate. But in fact this is one of those grey areas, where artists might be in one or the other or both. The Tate, having responsibility for the national collection of British art, tends traditionally to hold works on paper by British artists of whom it also has a more substantial holding in oils. But further than that it also holds watercolours and drawings by artists who seldom or never did anything else, especially if they qualify as vital documents in the history of taste.

The illustrations of Beardsley certainly come under that rubric. So do such famous Max Beerbohm caricatures as "the Pre-Raphaelites and their circle," all of which are here to delight as well as, ultimately, to impress with the way that Beerbohm makes his apparently wayward and childish line do just what he wants it to.

The show begins with the generation of 1860s illustrators such as Frederick Walker, George Pinwell and J.W. North, whose precision of



Innocent depravity: Aubrey Beardsley's cover design for the *Yellow Book*, 1894. Tate Gallery

line and delicacy of touch come over even more effectively when seen in the original rather than translated into wood engraving, however skilful were the journeymen who did it. It then goes on to such *fin-de-siècle* artists as Conder, Ricketts and the less remembered illustrators such as Henry Osipov, Philip Connard and Robert Anning Bell, who do not deserve the obscurity into which they have fallen.

And then there is Beardsley himself. The more firmly he is put into context the less he seems to belong to it — or to any context. His unfailing brilliance in manoeuvring black and white to create a dazzling array of imagined colours is all his own. So is the extraordi-

nary world of innocent depravity in which his creatures move and have their being.

Since the tremendous vogue of Beardsley in the swinging Sixties there has been, perhaps inevitably, something of a reaction. But by now his work has been lying fallow, spared the knowing over-cultivation of Carnaby Street rip-off merchants for just about long enough to let a new generation look at him with new eyes.

From 1900, 1890s "decadence" is replaced by the march of the moderns. Rather tentative, as presented here: after all, the heyday of Vorticism, Britain's own and most potent avant-garde movement of the 20th century, comes well within the time-span proposed for this

show. But there is no Wyndham Lewis, no Wadsworth, no Epstein, and only a couple of rather mild Bombergs, carefully modern without going overboard. On the other hand, further eccentric individuals such as Paul Nash, only faintly brushed by Cubism, Surrealism and other continental movements, come over very well indeed. And who would have thought that the Tate had wondrous rarities such as the haunting drawings by J.D. Innes and Maxwell Lightfoot hidden away? As a chance to see such, if nothing else, this show should not be missed.

● *Bomberg to Beardsley*, at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2-5.50pm, until February 14

Branagh brings in the crowds for his long-distance Hamlet

THE Royal Shakespeare Company's new production of *Hamlet*, now in preview at the Barbican, has taken the largest box-office advance for a Shakespeare play in the company's history. Takings have already topped £1 million for the production, which has Kenneth Branagh fondling poor Yorick's skull and Adrian "Whizzer" Noble directing. "Whether 'tis" Noble directing. The fact that Branagh's face has been peering down from cinema screens all around the country in *Peter's Friends* does help, of course.

Nevertheless, his return to the RSC after eight years is the biggest theatrical event of the season, and punters will certainly get their money's worth. Small print at the bottom of the Barbican leaflet asks spectators to get to the theatre early. The production is fearlessly using the uncut text and the running time is estimated at four-and-a-half hours.

● WITH the nation succumbing to the temptations of the karaoke machine, the Musicians' Union and Arts Council are stepping up efforts to encourage live music. They have won endorsement from senior rockers for "Gig Right UK", which brings together 25 smaller venues across England. Phil Collins, Peter Gabriel, Mick Jagger and Ringo Starr have agreed to act as patrons of the campaign, which aims to help musicians gain experience of playing live, and also to assist venues with advertising, PA improvements and the like. The list of venues ranges from The Borderline, off Charing Cross Road in London, to Manchester's Band on the Wall.

Remains to be seen

BUSY times at Merchant-Ivory: shooting of Kazuo Ishiguro's Booker-winning novel *The Remains of the Day*, with Anthony Hopkins as the ultra-correct butler and Emma Thompson as the housekeeper

ARTS BRIEFING

son's tenure as the United States ambassador to France.

Last chance...

JASON DONOVAN's first concert tour since starting in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* has been a self-congratulatory affair, even if it has failed to push his version of the Herman Hupfeld standard "As Time Goes By" into the Christmas Top Ten. Still attracting a barely pubescent and highly vocal audience, the former soap star's show depends as much on his posing routines as on his such as "Rhythm of the Rain" and "Sealed With a Kiss". See the jacket, then the shirt come off for the last time at the Winter Gardens, Margate (0843 292795) tonight.

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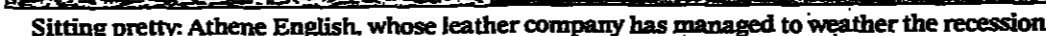
Remains to be seen
BUSY times at Merchant-Ivory: shooting of Kazuo Ishiguro's Booker-winning novel *The Remains of the Day*, with Anthony Hopkins as the ultra-correct butler and Emma Thompson as the housekeeper

BY DEREK HARRIS

Like Mr Heseltine, he lays emphasis on the need for those running the shops to have high skill levels.

BY LOLA SMITH

Getting to



ment with lanolin and saddle soap, the hides were ready for use. Miss English was one of the few designers invited by the Duchy and the divers to use the hides, and this was the opportunity that propelled her into the international market. She said: "Comparing these skins with ordinary leather is like comparing

a Stradivarius with an ordinary violin and, as a designer, I feel duty bound to do them justice. Therefore, I hand stitch every item, taking about ten days to make one briefcase. My hope is that the products will become much loved family heirlooms, to be passed on from one generation to the next."

Although her business has expanded considerably over the past four years, leading to the employment of outworkers and the opening of a shop, workshop and mail order business in the Wye Valley, Miss English is well aware that there is only a limited supply of her Russian raw material. "I'm not

BY SALLY WATTS

What is not generally realised is that the directive applies to trading in Britain as well as in the rest of Europe, and that our present non-mandatory standards system is

Paul Laycock, who graduated in construction management at Newcastle and had a spell working for John Laing, is the service's project officer. He is sponsored for two years by the DTI and the EC, and will interpret for individual businesses how the directive will affect their company. As a first step, free seminars are being held at

The first seminar, in Gateshead, attracted more than 40 employers. Mr Laycock said: "They were very worried. Their lack of information confirmed my worst fears. With the present state of the industry, businesses have neither the capacity nor the money to investigate for themselves. All members of the industry are affected by the need to meet product harmonisation. The ma-

Possible pitfalls include a control system applying to construction product makers. They must show that they have achieved the right quality and are able to maintain it; a requirement on the first importer, of goods from outside the Community, to obtain documentation;

He plans to organise further seminars and will provide one-to-one consultancy for businesses everywhere. Part of the cost will be borne by the DTI. There will also be free newsletters and use of the library. When businesses achieve EC standards, Mr Laycock will help them to gain accreditation. As he says, this is a good marketing move: it will look impressive on their literature and could increase business.


BRIEFINGS

❑ What makes a small business successful will be investigated in a three-year research project being funded by Lloyds Bank. The Small Business Research Trust will be collecting data from more than 200 businesses, all with an annual turnover of less than £1 million. A special focus will be how recession has affected them. It is hoped that some ideas on how to manage a small enterprise successfully through recession will emerge.


□ National Westminster Bank has launched BusinessLine, a 24-hour telephone banking service for small businesses. It offers basic banking services, plus the location of specific transactions, the last 25 transactions read over the phone, the transfer of funds between accounts and the facility to arrange a month in advance for bills to be paid.

EDITOR DEREK HARRIS




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CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITIONS

EDINBURGH CONFERENCE
 1994-1995
 Dates: 1994-1995
 Address: 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582,

B6C2

7.40 Assignment: First Ladies. Margaret Jay talks to Betty Ford, Barbara Bush and Hillary Clinton about the changing role of the American president's wife (533825)

8.25 Prisoners of Conscience. The baronist Michael Mansfield talks on behalf of a person jailed for political beliefs (150467)

9.30 Food and Drink. Sani Toksvig and Patrick Barlow compete in a festive culinary challenge. The winners are Barry creates party snacks; and Jill Golden and Oz Clarke select white wines to drink with turkey. Presented by Chris Kelly (3) (4028)

9.00 Quantum Leap: A Hunting We Will Go. Oldest American time-travel series. Starring Scott Bakula, (Ceeless) (3) (304844)

9.50 Troubleshooter 2: Neither Fish Nor Wolf. Sir John Harvey-Jones applies his business acumen to a struggling group of Bradford hospital managers. (3) (397080)

0.30 Newswright with Jeremy Paxman (343554)

1.15 Prisoners of Conscience with Michael Mansfield (705115)

1.20 Self Exposure: Current Events. In the second of five programmes, the Jewish-American director Ralph Abner explores how people can respond with more compassion to news of foreign disasters (511028)

2.20 Behind the Headlines (as 4.30pm) (3) (8613239)

2.50 Newswright (378749) Ends at 1.00

9.00 Prime Suspect 2
 ● CHOICE: The original *Prime Suspect* was so successful at combining critical acclaim and a huge audience that a sequel was inevitable. Indeed, *Prime Suspect 3* is already on the stocks. Lynne Russell's *The Plante*, who wrote *Prime Suspect 2*, has been succeeded by Lynne Cuiti, but there have been cast changes. But the main elements have been retained and so, most importantly, has the standard. Essentially, as before, this is a gripping and cleverly worked police procedural, centred on a murder enquiry. Helen Mirren is back as DCI Tennison, a shade more glamorous but still the high-lying women in a resolute male world. To the feminist strain is added a new one with the police from both nations, the relationship between police and the black community. Shot with sombre realism, *Prime Suspect 2* looks like another winner. It concludes tomorrow (Oracle) (B9361)

10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald. (Oracle) Weather (B9487)

10.30 Thames News (920202)

10.40 Prime Suspect 2 continued. (Oracle) (196931)

11.40 Prisoner: Cliff Beck II (B95912)

12.30 News at 12
 ● CHOICE: This week's *News at 12* concludes the series with this year's highlights, including clips of Sigourney Weaver, Tom Berenger and Anthony Hopkins (B2326)

1.30 The Equalizer: American crime drama (B6332)

2.30 Donahue: Phil Donahue asks whether a husband can rape his wife (1015717) 3.20 60 Minutes. American news magazine (B62351)

4.10 The Twilight Zone: A loser pays a high price to win at the race track. With Anthony Franciosa (1) (6075305)

4.40 Short Story Theatre: *Mr Gimmie and The Violets* (1) (430217)

5.30 ITV: Franch Muir. *Mr Wren*. *Earls* 6.00

9.00 Without Walls: Apres le Déluge
 ● **CHOICE:** Melyn Bragg takes a trip to Paris and evokes the feeling of post-1945 culture through such figures as Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus and Samuel Beckett. The film is partly a photographic collage. Bragg first set foot in the city as a 17-year-old. He was struck by how different it was to England. There was not the same feeling of hierarchy and class division and intellectuals were treated as normal human beings. As well as writing novels, Camus played football. Bragg is assisted in his trip down memory lane by the writer Oliver Todd, who not only knew Sartre but is able to explain existentialism in words not only available, but also fun. A tour of the Louvre includes the extraordinary flight of Jean-Benoît Borkoff who enthuses over Jean-Louis Barrault and gives a snatch of *Waiting for Godot*. Those were the days (6573)

10.00 Film: Strapless (1988). Enigmatic drama starring Blair Brown as an overworked doctor, whose marriage to stranger Bruno Ganz affects her relationship with younger sister Bridget Fonda. Written and directed by David Hare (789650)

11.55 Film: The Barchinas (1988). A timely episode of the irreverent royal soap opera (*1*) (*s*) (239757)

12.10am Brass: Their Finest Half-Hour. In the last in the comedy series, Bradley (Timothy West) plays cricket (*1*) (*s*) (6616326)

12.40 Film: Dark Eyes of London (1938, b/w). Vintage horror, based on a story by Edgar Wallace, starring Bala Lugosi as an evil doctor working at an institution for the blind. Directed by Walter Summers (6040535). Ends at 2.00

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TVS

ANGLIA

As London, except: 5.10pm-5.40 Blockbusters (7053941) 6.25-7.40 *Anglia News* (87573) 7.30-8.00 *Food Guide* (518)

BORDER

As London, except: 3.20pm-3.50 *Sons and Daughters* (388400) 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (84741) 6.00 *Underground* (554) 6.30-7.00 *Blockbusters* (134) 7.30-8.00 *The Hoped Traveler* (318) 11.40 *International* (79379) 12.00 *News* (87573) 1.00-1.30 *ChemistAtions* (77939) 1.30-1.50 *Minute Movies* (840729) 4.30-4.50 *News* (89429) 5.00-5.30 *Album Britain* (19332)

CENTRAL

As London, except: 1.15pm *A Country Practice* (149270) 1.30-1.55 *Home and Away* (84741) 1.55-2.15 *News* (87573) 2.15-2.40 *Blockbusters* (134) 2.50-3.20 *7.00 Central News* (87573) 3.30-4.00 *Heart of the Country* (318) 5.10-5.40 *Flight Into Danger* (65832) 5.45 *Entertainment UK* (80377) 6.15-6.30 *The Big E* (784645) 4.15-4.30 *News* (89429) 4.30-5.00 *Album Britain* (19332)

GRANADA

As London, except: 1.15pm *A Country Practice* (149270) 1.30-1.55 *Home and Away* (84741) 1.55-2.15 *News* (87573) 2.15-2.40 *Blockbusters* (134) 2.50-3.20 *7.00 Central News* (87573) 3.30-4.00 *Heart of the Country* (318) 5.10-5.40 *Flight Into Danger* (65832) 5.45 *Entertainment UK* (80377) 6.15-6.30 *The Big E* (784645) 4.15-4.30 *News* (89429) 4.30-5.00 *Album Britain* (19332)

HITV WEST

As London, except: 1.45pm-2.15 *The Big E* (784645) 1.55-2.15 *News* (87573) 2.15-2.40 *Blockbusters* (134) 2.50-3.20 *7.00 Central News* (87573) 3.30-4.00 *Heart of the Country* (318) 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (84741) 5.40-6.00 *Flight Into Danger* (65832) 6.00-6.15 *Album Britain* (19332)

HTV WALES

As HTV West, except: 6.00pm-6.30 *Wales at Six* 7.30-8.00 *Wmny's*

TSW

As London, except: 5.10pm-5.40 *Blockbusters* (134) 5.45-6.00 *News* (89429) 6.00-6.30 *Home and Away* (134) 7.30-8.00 *Teletext 32 - Together We Did It* (218) 8.00-8.30 *News* (89429) 8.30-9.00 *Album Britain* (121893) 9.15 *ChemistAtions* (882308) 9.10-9.15 *Minute Movies* (840729) 4.00 *News* (89429) 5.00-5.30 *Album Britain* (19332)

[illegible][illegible]

(7602) 120 Powerboat World (1946) 2.50
Joe Hooley (4134) 4.30 Football (6318)
Eddie Drag Racing (6676) 5.30 Snooker
(2655) Tom Slick (6763) 6.30 Pro Box
(3239) 10.30 NFL (6592) 12.30m Soccer

LIFESTYLE

10.00am Spiral Zone (4980) 10.30 Cover
Story (9955) 11.00 Goss (3319) 11.30
Joan Rivers (2002) 12.15pm Sally Jessy
Rambold (107226) 1.10 Lunchbox
(465632) 1.40 Self-Vision (4549126)
2.10 Arre Roman (454322) 3.00 New
Unwashed Genie (5941) 3.30 Burns And
Allen (833879) 4.10 Dick Van Dyke
6.10 (52537) 4.30 Gameshow (9496) 5.00
Randy (301720) 5.40m 5.30 Sale-Week
(3936) 5.50 Sally Jessy Rambold (23134)
7.00 5.50 Self-Vision (59715) 6.00 Music
Magazine (678544) 6.30-6.50am Top Gun
(13332)

IT WISDOM

6.00am Rainbow (1070561) 6.15 Children
And The Wheelies (1070160) 6.30 The All
New Poppy Show (2457776) 7.00 Beverly
Hills Teens (281597) 7.30 Neighbours
(281597) 8.00 Sons and Daughters
(281597) 8.30 EastEnders (275307) 9.00
The Bill (275750) 9.30 Pennance (482615)
10.30 Casualty (205677) 11.00 Terry Tay
June (225259) 12.00 Sons and Daughters
(274448) 12.30m Neighbours (594263)
1.00 EastEnders (2610208) 1.30 The Bill
(620624) 2.00 Pennance (704578) 2.30
Bradford (303222) 3.00 Doctors, The Silent
Killer (122226) 4.00 Beverly Hills Teens
(304572) 4.30 Degree Jones (4000)
(309075) 5.00 Neighbours (594955) 5.30
Or Who (303160) 6.00 Pennance (533072)
7.00 Portridge (303411) 7.30 Neighbours
(309075) 8.00 EastEnders (2545912)
8.30 Brad (6362515) 9.00 Casualty
(205677) 10.00 The Bill (275307)
Avalon Say's Silf (275495) 11.00 The
House Of Cards (722520) 11.30m Fire: The House
Of Cards (722520) 12.00m
wrongly accused of murder. With Mary
Gormley and William Sylvester. Directed by
John Schlesinger (722520) 12.50-2.00am
Video Stars (716814)

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RADIO .

6.55am Weather
7.00 **Alto:** Andrew Lytle with music, news and weather
9.00 **Composer of the Week:** Vividale. The Square and Basilica of St Mark, Milan
Jazz extracts from the journal of Edward Wright's visit to Venice in the 1720s. Purcell: *Concerta pernoctis* Trio
Handel: 200 Variations on "La Folia". (RV635). The English Concert Choir and English Chamber under Trevor Pinnock with Harp, Arlrot and Nancy Argentina. Sopranos, and Catherine Denford, contralto (v)
Brethren and this Cellists:
10.00 **Brinsford Mercury Duo:** D. Mülhanger Knabe, Op 86 No 1 - Margaret Price, Soprano, and David Lanthorn, piano (D) and Mülhanger Knabe, Alto (Academic Festival Overture); Wagner (Frodo Murnums, Siegried); Tchaikovsky (Elegy (Strings); Wolf (Hoch beglückt in der Liebe, Goethe Lieder); Brahms (Vier ewiger Lieben, Op 43 No 1) (Nocturns, Interlude and Finale on a theme of Rameau); Brahms (Capriccio in D minor, Op 116 No 7), Britten (Sonata for lute, horn and strings) Brahms (piano Trio No 2 in C, Op 87)
12.00 **An Ancient Song:** Sister Marie Keyrouz performs the chants of Lebanese Christian communities and David Meeling looks at medieval secular music of Byzantium (v)
1.00pm News
1.05 **BBC Scottish SO under Taita** Yvonne performs Dvořák (Slavonic Dances, Op 46 Nos 2 and 3, Symphony No 9 in E minor, From the New World)
2.00 **Brinsford Mercury Duo:** Celebration of Icelandic Culture: Ice and Fire. Paragon Ensemble under David Dewes performs Páll Pásson (Hrafninn), Axel Hólm (Mann Fróm), Hjalmar H. Ragnarsson (Freluðs Nos 1, 4 and 5), Jónas Tomasson (Sveininn), and Elísabetta Rannsó (Fannstú Rannsó); Jon Nordal (Duo); Ottómar S. Spurnbjörnsson (Choir); Aðalsteinn Magnússon (Sonata for marimba); Karlina Einarsdóttir (Phantasy in C)
3.30 **The Sky Above, the Earth Below:** A musical portrait of the Grimsethope Colliery Band conducted by Frank Penlton
4.00 **Bunk and Bill:** Bunk is the black jazz trumpeter Bunk the Johnson, said to have been Louis Armstrong in playing the instrument properly. Bill was William Russell, the jazz historian, who was an anyone rehabilitated Johnson's career after a generation of jazz fans had forgotten he ever existed. Michael Portin's new documentary four-part series about Johnson's rescue from oblivion and his subsequent rise of the revival of interest in New Orleans jazz in the 1940s, relies heavily, and productively, on a long interview he had with Russell shortly before he died.
5.00 **In Tune:** Andrew Green presents music, news and weather with guests and composer John Rutter
7.30 **Pebble Mill, live from Studio 1, Birmingham:** The Vanbrugh Quartet performs Haydn (G minor, Op. 74 No 3, Rider); John Kneisel (Quartet No 3); Dvořák (Quartet in A flat, Op 105)
9.15 **The Good Accompanist:** Professor The Baptists of Christ. Professor John White celebrates the art of the Renaissance painter Piero della Francesca
9.20 **BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Andrew Davis** with Tracey Chadwell, soprano performs Nicola Leleu (The Wind Among the Reeds), Philip Gould (Focus and Fade)
10.05 **Schumann's Dichterliebe** performed by David Wilson-Johnson, baritone, and David Owen Norris, piano
10.45 **Oliver Taplin** looks at the relationship between narrative poetry and live theatre
11.00 **Nikolova Plays Mozart:** Sir Kenneth Soud under Alexander Gibson with Tatiana Nikolova, piano performs Haydn (Symphony No 17 in F major), P. Tchaikovsky (Piano Concerto No 22 in B flat, KV55)
12.30-12.35am News


Simon on FM
5.00 News Briefing Int 6.03
Weather 6.10 Farming Today
6.15 Prayer 6.20 The Day
Dawn: Christian Howard 6.30
Today Int 6.30, 7.00, 7.30
6.00, 6.30 News 6.45
9.00 News 6.55 6.55
Weather 7.28, 9.25 Sports
7.45 Thought for the
Day 8.40 Yesterday in
Review Int 9.55 Weather
9.00 News
5.00 Call Nick Ross: 071-580
4444
5.00 News; Coastline (FM only):
Cliff Mitchell visits the
small village of Lynmouth on
the north Devon coast (s)
5.00 News
5.15 Paradise Lost (30 of 41)
5.00 Woman's Hour: an interview
with the author Susan Hill, plus
reviews on royalties and some
alternative Christmas ideas
Int, 11.00 News
5.00 Medicine Now with Geoff
Wheeler
5.00 You and Yours with John
Howard
5.25pm The Friend in the Corner
or CHOICE: Definitely not
Dorothy! A comedy by and
for the grey austerity of 1947. BBC
radio's talks department
offers listeners a new
perspective on Aldous
Huxley. Light relief was
however, at hand. There was
the pomp and ceremony of the
wedding of the future Queen
Elizabeth II, Penny Hillier and
I.T.D.M.A. and Dick Barton,
Special Agent. The third in this
marvellous series of
compilations from the BBC
archives, reveals that though
the Corporation banned
raughty words that might
offend children ("middle-
class", a "children's
hour" was not to say:
"Now, what about a song from
that derby minstrel show -- the
Coloured Cousins?") --

David Cragen, Simon, a Radio
drama producer, accidentally
seesawp on his actor
friends and learns what they
really think of him (s)
2.30 Richard Barker Compares
Notes and looks at the world
of English rock songs and its
shadows, with collectors
Howson and archivist Malcolm
Taylor (s)
3.00 A Perspective for Living (FM
only): Sir Michael Ondaatje
with Daniel Topolski about his
latest novel, Topolski (s)
3.00-4.00 Punters (FM only)
3.00 Prime Minister's Questions
(LW only)
4.00 News
4.05 Kaleidoscope: Paul Vaughan
looks at the most versions
of the Mulcair on offer and
reviews the staging of Cynano
de Bergerac starring Robert
Urich (s)
4.45 Short Story: 7.23, by Ewan
Hutton. Read by David Dooley
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping 5.55
News
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Knowing Me, Knowing
You... with Alan Partridge.
Chat from On the Hour's
special reporter and his guests
from the world of theatre,
politics and emotional tragedy
(s)
7.00 News
7.05 The Archers (s)
7.20 Piece 4 with reporter Stuart
Simon
8.00 Science Now (s)
8.30 News; Village Happen at
Seven: Ian McKerr offers some
observations on the passing
scene
8.45 In Touch, with Peter White
9.15 Kaleidoscope (s)
9.45 The Financial World
Tonight with Roger White (s) 9.59
Weather
10.00 The World Tonight with
Roger White (s)
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: Man
with No Eyes, by Fay Weldon and
read by Julie Christie
11.00 The Radio Programme:
Laure Taylor on the latest
radio news
11.30 News Tonight
12.00-12.45am News 12.27
12.45-1.30am Shipping 12.45
As World Service (LW only)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 106.3u/295m/108.9u/275m; Radio 2: 97.6-99.9,
Radio 3: FM-99.2, Radio 3: FM-94.2-92.2, Radio 4: 189.4/175.5m; 5.00

[illegible]

**mummy and daddy
hitting me..."**



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RACING 33

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SPORT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 15 1992

FOOTBALL 34
ATKINSON UNDER
PRESSURE TO
MAKE FAST RECOVERY

Family Formula One tradition continued as world champion team announces its No. 2 driver

Williams sign Hill to take Mansell's place

BY SIMON BARNES

WILLIAMS, the world champion motor racing team, brought weeks of rumour and speculation to an end yesterday by announcing that Damon Hill, the son of the late Graham Hill, would replace Nigel Mansell, the world champion driver, in their line-up next year.

When Hill takes the wheel for the South African grand prix on February 28, he will be continuing a rich family tradition. Graham Hill was perhaps the last truly dashing driver in Formula One.

It is too much to say that Williams have the world drivers' championship in their gift. Other teams may be making extraordinary strides in the closed season: Williams may be in the middle of some tremendous mix-up. However, neither possibility is something to bet the mortgage on.

More relevant to Hill's chances, probably, is the fact

that Williams have already appointed Alain Prost to drive next year. Prost is a three times world champion, and winner of 44 grand prix races, more than anyone else in history.

Mansell drove for the Williams team last year, and won the world drivers' championship. Now he has retired from Formula One, and is to compete in Indy Car racing next season. Hill is taking over one of the hottest seats in racing and he has two hard acts to follow: Mansell, and his own father, Graham. Another hard man to follow is Prost — that is, if Hill chooses to do much following. Presumably his principal job will be to protect Prost's back, even if nobody will put it quite like that.

Hill finally convinced the Williams team that he was the best man for the job after a brilliant testing session in Portugal last week. In fact, he was quicker than Prost, which could be a pointer to trouble ahead.

Hill was quick to minimise this suggestion. "Prost is not the sort of driver who slings it at the scenery. It was only his third test in the car. He is learning about both the team and the car," he said.

Hill comes over as both charming and modest, something that will make him stand out in the world of Formula One. He is not brash, and, at 30, he is certainly not young. "I've not been in Formula One — or even in motor racing all my life," he said. "I've lived in the real world as well. Been a dispatch rider and a labourer."

In fact, Hill's Formula One



Hot seat: Damon Hill, the son of the late Graham Hill, gets behind the wheel of a Williams at Didcot yesterday after being announced as their second driver for 1993

experience comes down to the grand total of two races, both last year. He was driving a Brabham; some will tell you it was a wonder that Hill was able to qualify, let alone finish both times. He was sixteenth and eleventh.

"I understand why people will see this as a controversial choice," he said. "It is a very brave decision from the Williams team, in the face of it. But I know motor racing, if

not Formula One — and I know this car very well." Hill has been test driver for Williams for two years. In one fell swoop, the understudy has been made a star. "He is the ideal candidate," Frank Williams, head of the Williams team, said. "He is very, very fast. He understands grand prix cars. His job is not to smash the cars and to get on the podium as often as possible."

Hill is going in with his eyes wide open. "Motor racing is different to any other sport," he said. "The only driver you are really competing with is your teammate. Your team always wants the drivers to work in harmony, but all drivers are competitive people or they wouldn't be racing drivers."

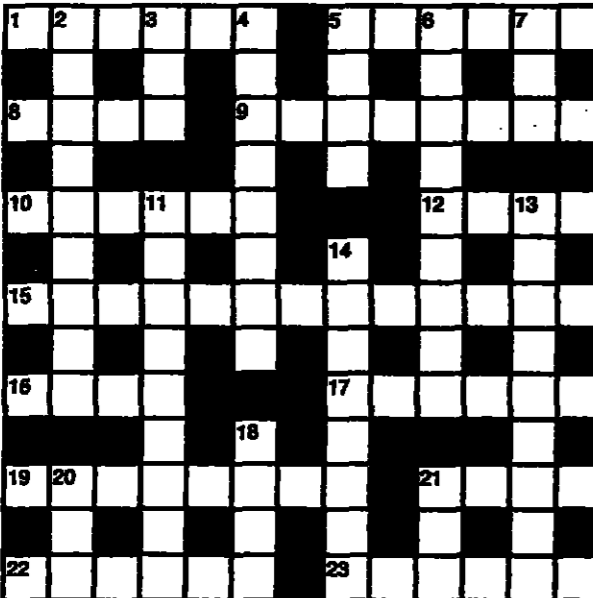
"The expectation is that Prost will do the bulk of the winning and that's a reasonable assumption. Just two weeks ago, all I wanted was to get this drive. Now all I want to do is not be shown up as completely inadequate." The implication is clear. Expectations change, and Hill expects his expectations to change as the season — and he — progresses.

"I've always been told how my father did at this or that. And I have put him on a very large pedestal. I am very proud to be in a competitive car in Formula One. I feel fulfilled, to some degree."

Prost is chasing old times as a former champion. Hill is breaking new ground — but he is also, as the son of his father, bringing back the past. The future of Formula One racing could be decided at a Heathrow airport hotel on January 14 when Bernie Ecclestone calls together the team directors.

Graham Hill profile, page 32

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2971



ACROSS
1 Sneaked off work (6)
5 Medical course (6)
8 Give off (4)
9 Yiddish bravado (8)
10 Ski obstacle course (6)
12 Kind (4)
15 Irascible (5,8)
16 Hideous (4)
17 Sudden (6)
19 Block (8)
21 Joke (4)
22 Trapped (6)
23 Reserved (6)

DOWN
2 North Korea president (3,2,4)
3 Animal doctor (3)
4 Destroy large part (8)
5 Overwhelming defeat (4)
6 Place list book (9)
7 New Zealand flightless bird (3)
11 Personal heavenly omen (5,4)
13 Hamelin rat catcher (4,5)
14 Driven together (8)
17 Turkey/Iraq/Iran nomad (4)
20 Tight hair roll (3)
21 Traffic block (3)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2970
ACROSS: 1 Highland fling 8 Onion 9 Bushido 10 Coo 11 Oldie 12 Bear hug 14 Harass 16 Consul 20 Logical 23 Frizz 24 Ave 25 Afflict 26 Nylon 27 Disobediently

DOWN: 1 Hook of Holland 2 Guildler 3 Lancers 4 Nabobs 5 Fossa 6 Irish 7 George Lazenby 13 Ran 15 Ali 17 Offence 18 Skillet 19 Slaved 21 Guts 22 Climb

By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Kosten — McDonald, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Challengers 1987/88. Tony Kosten finished clear first in the challengers tournament of 1987/88 gaining the right to play in the following year's premier. This victory helped him on his way. Can you spot white's immediate knock-out blow? This year's Hastings tournament features the Hungarian prodigy Judit

Polgar. Further details from the British Chess Federation on 0424 445200.



Solution on page 32.
CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software with help levels, (runs on most PCs), call Akom Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hrs) or CDs on 0902 890000 - STOP PRESS! just released - The First Book of The Times Junior Crosswords - ring Akom. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

By PHILIP HOWARD

CROQUIS
a. Swiss baked potato with Gruyère
b. A rough sketch
c. A symple at Croquet

FELSENMEER
a. A coarse Amsterdam felt
b. A boulder field
c. A padded jerkin for fencing

Answers on page 32

ALIPHATIC
a. Prophetic
b. Fatty
c. A language without labials

FATIHA
a. A Moslem prayer
b. The Ottoman queen mother
c. An Iroquois name for a fish

FA to consider video evidence before taking Wright decision

BY STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IAN Wright, Arsenal's leading scorer, will learn by the end of the week the price he must pay for his latest misdemeanour. The Football Association is to announce its verdict after studying the referee's report and video evidence of the punch he threw at David Howells, of Tottenham Hotspur, at White Hart Lane on Saturday.

Wright, who started the year by being fined £1,500 for allegedly spitting at an Oldham Athletic supporter, could end it by being suspended. If the FA takes action, as is probable, the sentence promises to be for two or three games, the same as if he had been sent off during the game.

One precedent, set by another Arsenal player four years ago, is thought to be irrelevant. Paul Davis was banned for nine games and fined £3,000, but his act, a left hook which fractured the jaw of Glenn Cockerill in a match against Southampton, was considered overtly cynical. Davis struck when the ball was some distance away and when he knew the referee's attention had been diverted elsewhere. Wright, over-reacting to a tackle considerably less forceful than others which littered the spiteful north London derby, retaliated within a few

yards of the official, Alf Buxsh.

Howells, to his credit, did not respond to the unacceptable provocation. Had he done so, the festering bitterness might have exploded temporarily into more widespread violence and Wright might also have received more than a lecture from Buxsh, who had consulted his linesman.

George Graham, the Arsenal manager who has asked for Buxsh not to take charge of his club's games, yesterday accepted that Wright was at fault. "I've seen the video and spoken to the player," he said. "He states



Graham: discipline

categorically that he did not punch the other player.

"But even lifting your arm is a problem, in my opinion. It is wrong and, at Arsenal, we don't condone that sort of behaviour. If any disciplinary action is to be taken, it will be done in the Arsenal way, privately and not in public."

Graham likened Wright's fiery nature to that of Paul Gascoigne. Significantly, when he was at Tottenham Hotspur, television cameras captured him elbowing a Notts County opponent at White Hart Lane in the FA Cup three seasons ago. No action was taken either by the referee or, subsequently, by the FA.

"Gascoigne worked at his temperament under Terry Venables at Tottenham," Graham said, "and he has matured into the player that he is. I'm working on the same lines with Ian and he's working very hard on it, too, but you don't change overnight."

Nevertheless, Wright is endangering not only Arsenal's ambitions of winning the inaugural Premier League title, but also his own place in the England line-up. He has been selected as Alan Shearer's partner in both of the World Cup qualifying ties so far against Norway and Turkey.

Graham Taylor, the England manager who will watch Holland take on the Turks in Istanbul tomorrow, will not tolerate representatives who consistently misbehave. Graham, during a Football Writers' Association lunch in London, expressed his determination to refine the troubled and controversial forward he bought from Crystal Palace for £2.5 million.

"Ian has great talent and we don't want to lose great talent from our game through this type of falling," he said. "We will continue to work hard and, if we succeed, it will be to our benefit and it will help his England career as well."

Venables, a guest at the same function, suggests that the Premier League should be enlarged for the sake of youngsters. Too many, he feels, lose impetus and interest once they fail to progress from their club's youth side to the reserves.

At tomorrow's Premier League meeting, he will propose that an under-21 division should be formed. That, though, would have been no service to Wright's education. He did not become a professional until he was signed by Palace at the age of 22.

Cup preview, page 34

Russian coach is caught with steroids

BY JOHN GOODBODY

FOUR leading Russian athletes, including two world champions, were yesterday ordered to return to Moscow when Swedish customs officials found illegal substances in the luggage of the team coach on their arrival in Stockholm.

The four competitors — one man and three women — were identified as Rodion Gataullin, the pole vaulter, Ludmila Naroshenko, the world 100-metre hurdles champion, Margarita Ponomareva, the world 400 metres hurdles champion, and Tachana Reshetnikova, the international sprinter. "Customs officials found anabolic steroids and syringes

in a suitcase belonging to the coach, Lydia Fedotova," Bengt Bendixen, a Swedish athletics official, said. There is no suggestion that the competitors knew the coach had drugs in his possession.

The athletes were to have trained and competed in Malmö, 375 miles south of Stockholm. The scandal has forced the local club to cancel an international indoor meeting in mid-February.

After consultations with the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) and the Swedish Athletics Federation, it was decided that the four competitors should undergo drug tests, the results of which should be known within a few days. Arne Ljungqvist, the

IAAF vice-president, said he was deeply worried about the attempted smuggling of anabolic steroids.

"The incident will be discussed at the IAAF meeting in London in January," Ljungqvist told the Swedish news agency, TT. "It is too early to say what measures will be taken. First we must await the outcome of the tests."

Ljungqvist, who is also president of the IAAF medical commission, did not rule out the possibility that Fedotova would be barred from coaching. He expressed concern about a new wave of smuggling of anabolic steroids from the former Soviet Union into Sweden. "There are huge stocks of illegal substances

there, worth large amounts of money. The temptation must be great," he said.

The four athletes were part of a big programme involving about 25 competitors from former Soviet republics. They were to practise in the new indoor arena in Malmö for nine months and sponsors were to pay for food and lodging during this time.

This is not the first time that Russians have been caught carrying anabolic steroids on entry to a foreign country. In 1983, two weightlifters, including Anatoli Pissarenko, the world super-heavyweight champion, were stopped at Montreal airport and found to have hormone drugs in their luggage.

Ali's notes fail to sell

NOTES used by Muhammad Ali, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, to persuade organisers to give him a rematch with Leon Spinks failed to sell at Sotheby's yesterday (Sarah Jane Checkland writes).

Used by Ali in a nationally televised press conference at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York on March 4, 1978, the text was considered rare and valuable by the auction house because Ali usually preferred on such occasions to extemporise. In the event his appeal did the trick, and Ali then made sporting history by capturing the title for the third time.

Unfortunately, the manuscript recording the incident had less success. Scrawled in ball-point pen, it had been estimated at £4,000 to £5,000. In the event, however, bids stopped at £700.

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